



Gc  
973.74  
W75wif  
1889, 198-1903  
3rd, 12th-17th  
1764902

REYNOLDS HISTORICAL  
GENEALOGY COLLECTION

✓

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 1833 00825 7203





F 8.349.983

5th Wisc.

Vol. Inf.

Re-union

1889, 1898 - 1903

1861.

Fifth Wis. Vol. Inf'y.

1889.

Wisconsin Infantry. 5th regt. 1861-1865



1764902

\* Reunion \*

—OF THE—

Fifth Wisconsin Volunteer.  
INFANTRY.

Held at Milwaukee,

AUG. 27, 28 AND 29, 1889.

OSHKOSH, WIS.  
ALLEN & WEIDNER, PRINTERS.  
1890.



F  
8349 WISCONSIN INFANTRY. 5th regt., 1861-1865.  
...Annual reunion... 3d, 12th-17th; 1889, 1898-  
.983 1903. Oshkosh, 1890-1903.

7v.

Cross Card



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2012

<http://archive.org/details/annualreunion3d100unit>

PURSUANT to call issued by Col. T. S. Allen, President of the 5th Wisconsin Veteran Association, the old veterans to the number of nearly three hundred, met at the assembly room of the 7th Ward School House on Jefferson St., and were called to order by the President. Richard Carter, who was elected Secretary at the last previous reunion in 1880, assumed his position as Secretary. The large hall was filled to overflowing, a number of the wives and friends of the boys being present.

After the rush of greetings and hand-shaking was over, with a few preliminary remarks Capt. J. M. Bean was introduced to make an address of welcome on the part of Milwaukee. His address contained interesting incidents relative to events immediately preceding the war, and to the causes of the war. The address was replete with pathos and eloquence.

Col. Amasa Cobb, the veteran original Colonel of the regiment, was then called upon and was greeted with enthusiastic applause. His remarks, which brought back the times of 1861 and 1862 to the vivid recollection of all, were highly appreciated. He alluded to the honorable record of the Fifth, expressed his gratification at the warmth of the reception, of his old and undying affection for the regiment, and of the Damon and Pythias love between the Fifth and the glorious old Sixth Maine.

Col. Allen then led off the "Rally Round the Flag, boys." Capt. Bean presiding at the piano and the boys all joining in with old-time vim and enthusiasm.







Liet. Col. Bull was called out and spoke feelingly of his connection with the regiment, rejoicing that he had an opportunity to participate in its honorable and successful career.

Capt. R. O. Ross, one of the boys of '61, was then called out, and proceeded to wake up the boys in his usual vigorous manner. Comrade M. H. Barnum spoke eloquently of the gaps made in the ranks by death on the battlefield, as was witnessed in present and past roll-calls.

Major Kempf, being called for, responded with his grateful acknowledgment of the compliment.

Comrade J. S. Anderson then responded to calls from the boys, and proceeded in eloquent and impressive terms, giving an account of his visit to the Sixth Maine boys at Portland last year, and also a humorous sketch of the early history of the Fifth regiment.

Col. Allen in response to calls, gave a brief history of the manner in which he first assumed command of the regiment, of his confidence in its fighting qualities, and of the pride which he had always felt and always should feel, in having had the honor to command such a body of men and patriots. He gave a sketch of the reorganization in 1864, showing how he had obtained seven new companies who assisted in keeping up the reputation of the regiment, in storming the works at Petersburg, in fighting the battle of Saylor's Creek, and closing the war at Appomattox. He was greeted with old-time enthusiasm.

Col. John G. Clark next responded, giving a graphic account of Marye's Heights, telling what he himself saw of the charge, and proving that all would have been a failure but for the dashing bravery of the Fifth.

Maj. Butterfield then warmed up the boys with some interesting reminiscences.



Officers of the association were then elected as follows :

COL. T. S. ALLEN, Prest.

COL. AMASA COBB, 1st V. Prest.

MAJ. C. W. KEMPF, 2d    “

COL. J. M. BULL,       3d    “

CAPT. J. H. COOK, 4th   “

LIEUT. RICHARD CARTER, Secretary.

J. A. LINS, Treasurer.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE :—J. S. Anderson of Co. A., Oscar Pierce of B., J. C. Iverson, of C., Andrew Turnbull of D., Henry Curran of E., I. M. Bean of F., W. H. Keyes of G., Thos. Edwards of H., P. R. Tiffany of I., and Aug. Franz of K.

The following telegram was received and read :

LUBEC, MAINE, Aug., 28th.

COL. THOS. S. ALLEN. H'd Q'rs 5th Wis.

The Sixth Maine in annual reunion reassembled sends greeting to their old comrades of the Fifth Wisconsin.

J. L. PIERCE.

Comrades J. S. Anderson, Ben Smith and B. F. Cram were appointed a committee to reply, who sent the following :

J. L. PIERCE, Sec'y Sixth Maine Association, Lubec, Maine.

The Fifth Wisconsin in reunion assembled returns greeting to their old comrades of the Sixth Maine. God bless you, boys.

The following letter in response to an invitation to attend the reunion, was received from our gallant and honored Corps Commander :

NEWPORT, R. I., July 26th, 1889.

MY DEAR COLONEL :

May the survivors of your good regiment, the 5th Wisconsin, have a joyous reunion at Milwaukee. As their numbers grow less, the ties that bind together those who have served their country so nobly cannot fail to be drawn more closely. It is well to preserve the memories of an organization which did its duty so well, and, which it is but just to say, was not surpassed in our own good old Sixth Corps, nor in the glorious Army of the Potomac, and I should gladly drop in upon you on the occasion of your reunion; but as I cannot I must ask you to extend my most sincere greetings to those of the regiment who may be with you.

Very sincerely yours,

H. G. WRIGHT,

Major Gen. of Vol's, Com'dr 6th Army Corps.  
Col. Thos. S. Allen, 5th Wis. Vol's, Oshkosh, Wis.



8 o'clock P. M.—Banquet given by resident to visiting comrades, Col. Bull presiding.

### THE BANQUET.

By special invitation of comrades of the Fifth, residing in Milwaukee, being mostly members of old Co's B. and C., the boys gathered around bountifully spread tables in West Side Turner Hall and were presided over by Col. Bull. There was feasting, merriment, eloquence and enthusiasm from 8 to 11 p. m.

Gen. Oliver Edwards, of Warsaw, Ill., Gen. E. H. Rhodes of Providence, R. I., Gen. J. M. Rusk, Capt. Henry Curran, Maj. Kempf and Frank Pease being called for responded with appropriate addresses. A vote of thanks was then extended to J. C. Iverson, individually, and to the resident members of B. and C. for the banquet and for the interest taken in the Regiment generally, and to the State Home band for their excellent music. A collection was then taken up to defray the expenses of publishing and distributing rosters &c., \$28.10 being realized. It was then decided that the time and place of future reunions be left to the Executive Committee.

It was decided, on motion, that the roster of the Regiment be published and that a copy be sent to each member registered.

R. CARTER, Sec'y.





## *Roster of those Present at Reunion.*

AMASA COBB, Col., Lincoln, Neb.  
 THOMAS S. ALLEN, Col., Oshkosh.  
 THEODORE B. CATLIN, Lt. Col., Green Bay, (since dead)  
 C. W. KEMPF, Major, Watertown.  
 JOHN G. CLARK, Q. M., Lancaster.

### REORGANIZED.

J. M. BULL, L't Col., Stillwater, Minn.  
 AMBROSE JONES, Ass't Surg., Dalton, Wis.

### BAND.

F. S. Fenton, Beloit, Wis	A. B. Winn, Beloit, Wis
James W. Loudon, Janesville, Wis	F. A. Winn, Delavan, Wis
B. F. H. Luce, Merrill, Wis.	

### Co. "A."

J L Cox, 89, 6th St., Milwaukee	Daniel Buboltz, Reedsville
Wm H Crocker, "	Ole Nelson, Blair
A W Black, Detroit, Mich	John Gilbert, Manitowoc
Arnold Wagner, Sturgeon Bay	Albert J Payne, Greenleaf
E G Linderman, Nat. Home, Mil	W R Rickaby, Niles
Jas S Anderson, Manitowoc	Richard Dukelow, Sioux Falls, Dk'ta
A B Steele, Adrian, Mich	John C Scanlon, Menominee
J H Leonhard, Green Bay	Ludwig Urban, "
A B Gibson, Robinson, Kansas	

### Co. "B"

Geo H Cooper, Washington, D C	Oscar H Pierce, Milwaukee
Jas H Conlow, Rushford	Spencer G Waite, "
Silas J Parker, Eldon, Missouri	D W Howie, "
M H Perrigo, Edgerton Minn	J B Oliver, "
Samuel Harshman, Wareka	Henry Pigz, Merrimac
Geo W Sinclair, Nat. Home. Mil	I H Albee, Wausau
Henry Niedecken, Milwaukee	R O Ross, Chicago
Samuel J Hooker, "	M McNie, Winona, Minn
E K Holton, St. Louis, Mo	Ed O'Brien, Chicago Stock Yards
C F Powell St. Louis, Mo	W H McFarland, Madison
John Kalk, Hollister, Col	C T Hutchinson, Grand Marsh
Geo H Keyes, Florence	Jas Dorgan, New Richmond
Jas Smith, Nat. Home, Milwaukee	





Co. "C"

Hugo Richter, St. Louis, Mo.	Henry Bassinger, Watertown
Wm. H. Landolt, Pt. Washington	John Conrad, Chicago, Ill
Martin Arno, Menasha	J Taubner, Winnebago City, Minn.
Chas Neubauer, Menominee	J A Luts, Eagle <b>GALINS</b>
Jacob Miller, Milwaukee	Frederick Bartels, Nat. Home, Mil.
Wm Bolte, "	Fred A Volkmann, Milwaukee
John Brumm, "	Erie Westernhagen, "
J C Iverson, "	John Braun, Burnham
Chas Vollert, "	P S E Mansen, Grand Crossing, Ill
Joseph Bub, "	Henry Becker, Albany, N Y
Diedrich Dietrof, "	Samuel Harshman, Wauneka
Edward Heitman "	

Co. "D"

Chas N Miller, Pittsburg, Pa	Louis Longstaff, 283 Mil. St., Mil
John Rogler, Minneapolis, Minn	Martin Creasy, Hancock
Chas F Cleveland, Norrie,	J B Canterbury, La Crosse
Adrian Schultz, Kingston, Iowa	Charles McCoy, Oshkosh
Hubert P Young, Escanaba, Mich	B F Worthington, Centralia
Elijah Young, Milwaukee	Ben Smith, Madison
R A Canterbury, enlisted as R A	REORGANIZED.
Bruce Franklin Grove, Ill	John Whitmore, Wausau
C A Brown, McGregor Iowa	Calvin Blood, Ogdensburg
Geo A Hardy Clarion, Iowa	Henry Pellersols, Grand Rapids
A Turnbull, Grand Rapids	John C Hogarty, Hogarty
James Powers, Warren Mills	H B Blanchard Stevens Point
Charles M Conkling, Adrian Mich	J K P Hubbard, Hull
Jas DeClark, Garnett Kansas	Phillip H Blodgett, Plover

Co. "E"

Joseph P Lincoln, Ellsworth Kan.	Henry Curran, Stevens Point
J W Huggins, Stansbery Mo	REORGANIZED.
R W Rayner, Battle Creek Mich	Geo Mader, Readfield
Hammond L Ames, Janesville	P H Parks, Ogdensburg
Henry Jarvis, "	T Banduroy 686 16th St Milwaukee
Joseph C. Rogers, Quincy Mich	John McCabe, Oshkosh
Warren Potter, Aitken Minn	Gottlieb Guhring, Freedom
W W Bradshaw, Washington Harbor	E Gus Hursh, Baker City, Oregon
George W Dutton Tifton, Iowa	T E Chubbuck, Seymour
Richard D Conan, Calliope, Iowa	L A Russell, Cadott
Henry Wagner, Menominee	N C Lawrence, Mayville
Martin Rhoades, Rockford, Ill	J Towle, Birnamwood

Co. "F"

Thomas H Webley, Cedarville Ohio	E A Heath, Kinnikinic Av., Mil
Irving M Bean, Milwaukee	Willard B Ward, 348 Virgo St. Mil
Arthur Holbrook, "	John Ross, Pewaukee
Robert Powrie, Fond du Lac	George W Rice, Ludington Mich
J C Foster, Shell Rock, Iowa	REORGANIZED.
Thos McGreen, Waukesha	J C Thompson, Grand Junction Io
A J Smith, Viroqua	E J Dartt, Packwaukee
John F Heath, Kendall	J A Fisher, 94 Doty St, Fond du Lac
B F Cram, Madison	Joseph Dean, Madison
Ezra D Pelton, Viola	Andrew McFadden, Oconto
John Blundell, Canning Dakota	Wm Stenzell, Ellendale, Kansas
Joseph Taylor, Dartford	



Co. "G"

Frel H Smith, Logansport, Ind  
H N Lewis, Breckenridge, Mo  
Peter H Soper, Oshkosh  
Wm H Keyes, "  
Abisha Baker, Darlington  
Hiran Perkins, Arlington Dakota  
M C Young, Rockford, Ill  
S Y Naylor, Rock Island, Ill  
Samuel F Rowe, Waupaca  
Charles H Taplin, Wautoma  
David F Baker, Berlin  
Jas Smith, Nat. Home, Milwaukee

Chas Knutson, Menominee  
Jerry Norton, Dartford  
REORGANIZED.  
S S Daggett, Eureka  
George M Perry, Black River Falls  
John W Curran, Madison  
J A Cootauch, Brushville  
C C Latour, Delevain  
John W Storey, Clinton Junction  
Noah A Decker, Lisbon, N. Dakota  
Levi Baker, Arena

Co. "H"

J M Adams, Mitchell, Dakota  
Thomas J Edwards, Ash Ridge  
Frank A Pease, Menominee  
John R Moon, Richland Center  
Benj W Lawton, Viola  
Wm Morrison, Lima, Ohio  
Joseph Harker, Mifflin  
Adam C Bell, Dry Wood  
Geo L Marshall, Fancy Creek  
Henry H Hoyt, Bloom City  
R P Mathews, Minneapolis, Minn  
J M Mathews, " "

REORGANIZED.  
M H Bacon, McCook, Neb  
Fred Hartson, Minneapolis, Minn  
Orlando Bills, Waupaca  
W O Stevens, Scranton, Iowa  
S Thompson, Coloma Station  
Edward Wessing, Packwaukee  
Thomas B Nott, Calumet, Iowa  
William Kribbs, Galesville  
E C Pratt, Beaver Dam  
A W Burwell, Merritt's Landing  
A J Wood, Milton Junction  
M DeWitt Older, Portage  
Cyrus B Church, Fond du Lac  
Sidney Windecker, "  
Abraham Denny, Black Creek

Co. "I"

Elliott Shadbolt, Brooklyn, Iowa  
Alexander C Bowen, Columbus  
P R Tiffany, Taycheedah  
John D Buell, "  
Milton B Hayes, Crookston, Minn  
John Kyle, Reed's Landing, Minn.  
George Kyle, Dunnville  
M H Barnum, Wausau  
S M Dyer, 321 Union Av, Pueblo Col  
James H Greeley, Stockbridge  
Charles Campbell, Hammond  
J H Cook, Appleton  
Joel A Fish, Georgetown  
Richard Carter, Dodgeville  
Alfred M Green, Fond du Lac

Wm H Mead, Fond du Lac  
David L Allen, East Marinette  
Abram Adkins, Bloomington  
REORGANIZED.  
F Z Dexter, Lone Rock  
T A Ross, Belleville  
J Peterson, Green Bay  
George W Baker, Albany  
Thomas Flint, "  
George F West, Darlington  
Henry Tipp, Jr., Gratiot  
David Slothower, "  
Chas M Perkins, "  
H B Mason, Waupun



Co. "K"

B Himmelsbach, Chippewa Falls  
Robert Creaser, Downsville  
Henry Braker, "  
John Borland, Menominee  
Christian Beguhn "  
C Erickson, "  
David Harle, Minneapolis, Minn

REORGANIZED  
Wm Schiesl 470 15 St Milwaukee  
G H Le Fevre, Winneconne  
Wm Walters, Eau Claire  
Joseph Listly, Sycamore, Ill  
Wm Calkins, Palmyra, Mich  
I. M Butler, Eureka  
Palmer Beulin, "  
Dwigt Hazen, Osseo  
Samuel Welsh, Baraboo

NOTE.—Quite a number of those present neglected to register their names. The whole number registered was 240, but nearly 300 were actually present during the reunion.



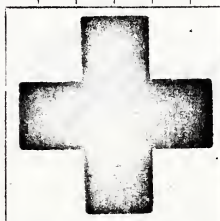




# REUNION

OF THE

## *Fifth Wisconsin Vol. Infantry.*



HELD AT EAU CLAIRE, MAY 19  
AND 20, 1897, AND ALSO AT AP-  
PLETON, MAY 24 AND 25, 1898.

OSHKOSH, WIS.  
ALLEN & WEIDNER, PRINTERS,  
1899.

Also 1899 Edition





# REUNION

OF THE

*Fifth Wisconsin*

*Vol. Infantry,*

HELD AT

EAU CLAIRE, MAY 19 AND 20,  
1897, AND ALSO AT APPLETON,  
MAY 24 AND 25, 1898.



# Reunion at Eau Claire.

MAY 19 AND 20, 1897.

## PROCEEDINGS.

Pursuant to call issued by Col. Thomas S. Allen, President of the Association of the 5th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, the survivors of the various Companies composing the said Regiment to the number of forty-six, met at the hall of the G. A. R. in the city of Eau Claire in Eau Claire County, Wisconsin, on the 19th and 20th days of May 1897, and were called to order by the President of the Association. Richard Carter, the Secretary elected at a previous reunion, was unable to be present and J. E. Ellis was appointed Secretary pro tem, and acted as such.

Col. Amasa Cobb, the first President of the Regiment, sent in his regrets and stated that he was unable to be present on account of pressing engagements, whereupon on motion of Comrade Pease, President Col. Allen was instructed to send the greeting of the regiment to Col. Cobb. Excuses of other members, who desired to be present but could not, were presented by Col. Allen and others. Col. Allen then addressed the members present, with reminiscences of the service of the regiment during the rebellion, and made interesting remarks with regard to errors in historical accounts of certain battles in which the regiment took part. He called attention to the very meager account of certain engagements



which were fruitful of great results and to which justice had not been done by historians, and also pointed out errors in history in which due and proper credit had not been given in certain cases, and in others in which credit had been given to those not entitled to it. He also called to the attention of those present interesting incidents and reminiscences.

Numerous incidents occurred of meeting between comrades who had not seen each other for many years, and in some instances not since being mustered out. Among the most interesting which occurred during the meeting were the gathering in groups by the members, in which events of the service were talked over, interesting occasions were called to mind, and those things which had made the most vivid and lasting impression upon the minds of some were recalled, making the gathering prominent for its social character.

Remarks covering thrilling events which took place during the service of the regiment from time to time were made by Comrades Harshaw, Pease, Garrity, Blair, Tiffany, Bayard and others. The reunion was visited by several members of the State Encampment of the G. A. R., who were acquainted with the history of the 6th corps, to which the 5th Wisconsin belonged, and made prominent the fact that this corps was never defeated during the war, although it took part in many of the most severe battles.

At the second day's session it was announced by Col. Allen that the first reunion of the regiment was held in Fond du Lac in 1872; another reunion was held in 1880; another was held in 1885, and still





another in 1889, the last one at Milwaukee in which a record was issued and published.

Col. Allen kindly supplied the members present at this reunion with a badge of white silk ribbon having printed thereon the 6th corps badge, being the Greek cross in red, for the first division, and the words "Fifth Wis. Volunteers, Eau Claire, 1897." underneath, which were gratefully received by the members.

The Association then proceeded to the election of officers which resulted in the choice of Col. Thomas S. Allen as President, to succeed himself; Col. Amasa Cobb was elected First Vice-President; and Comrade P. R. Tiffany as Second Vice-President; J. F. Ellis as Secretary; and Henry Curran as Treasurer. The President was authorized to appoint one member from each Company to act as Executive Committee. Letters and telegrams received were read. A voluntary contribution by the members was made and paid to the Treasurer to be used as an emergency and expense-fund for the benefit of the Association. A roll of the names of the members in attendance was made and filed with the Secretary, which is hereto appended, whereupon the Association adjourned to meet at Appleton in 1898 at the call of the President.

Thanks were voted to the citizens of Eau Claire for their magnificent hospitality and attentions which were showered upon us.

Appended hereunto are the names and post office address of those who attended and registered their names as appears from the files of the Secretary.

J. F. ELLIS, Secretary.





## ROLL CALL.

List of those present whose names were registered at the reunion at Eau Claire, May 19th and 20th, 1897    Number present, 46.

Thomas S. Allen, Col., Oshkosh, Wis.  
 Paul Andrews, Company D, Stevens Point, Wis.  
 M. H. Barnum Old Co's G and I, 509 Franklin St., Wausau, Wis.  
 Myron H. Bayard, Old Co's K & A, 704 6th Ave., Eau Claire, Wis.  
 Christ Baguhn, Old Company K, Menomonie, Wis.  
 Thomas Blair, Old Co's K and A, Blar Moor, Dunn Co., Wis.  
 John Borland, Company A, Menomonie, Wis.  
 Henry Braker, Old Company C, Downs ville, Wis.  
 B. F. Brown, Co. G, 634 Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.  
 B. J. Brown, Company G., Thorpe, Wis.  
 H. B. Cady, Company H, De Pere, Wis.  
 J. B. Canterbury, Old Company D, La Crosse, Wis.  
 Henry Curran, Company G, Stevens Point, Wis.  
 J. W. Curran, Company G, Madison, Wis.  
 H. S. Curtis, Company K, Falls City, Wis.  
 A. B. Day, Company G, Neillsville, Wis.  
 F. Dudley, Company G, Alma Center, Wis.  
 J. F. Ellis, Company K, Eau Claire, Wis.  
 Nicholas Fifer, Company G, Milston, Wis.  
 James Frost, Company F, Rudolph, Wis.  
 T. C. Garrity, Co's I and B, 530 S. Cedar, St., Galesburg, Ill.  
 P. A. Hackett, Company K, 916 Prospect St., Eau Claire, Wis.  
 John H. Harris, Old Co's K and A, Knapp, Wis.  
 W. D. Harshaw, Company E, Oshkosh, Wis.  
 Dwight Hazen, Company K, Eau Claire, Wis.  
 Barney Himmelsbach, Old Co's K and A, Chippewa Falls, Wis.  
 D. W. Howie, old Co. B, "Milwaukee Zouaves" 154 2nd St., Milw.  
 Robert Jones, Company K, Falls City, Wis.  
 William Kribs, Company H, Galesville, Wis.  
 George Kyle, Co's I and B, Downs ville, Wis.  
 John Kyle, Co's I and B, Downs ville, Wis.  
 A. E. Lane, Company G, Hixston, Wis.  
 D. W. McCart, Company A, Yale, Chippewa County, Wis.  
 Robert Miller, Old Company K and A, Rusk, Dunn County, Wis.  
 Franklin E. Pease, Company H, Menomonie, Wis.  
 A. B. Redfield, Company D, Stevens Point, Wis.  
 Harvey S. Root, Old Company K, Dunn County, Wis.  
 L. A. Russell, Company E, Eau Claire, Wis.  
 Joe Schimian, Company I, Eau Claire, Wis.  
 Ben Smith, Companies, D and B, Oshkosh, Wis.  
 P. R. Tiffany, Companies I, B and K, Taycheedah, Wis.  
 William Walters, Company K, Eau Claire, Wis.  
 Samuel Welch, Company K, Baraboo, Wis.  
 Henry B. Wescott, Company K, Eau Claire, Wis.  
 J. R. Whitney, Company K, Waneka, Wis.  
 George Wright, Old Company C, Badger Mills, Wis.



# Reunion at Appleton,

MAY 24 AND 25, 1898.

---

Pursuant to call of the President, a reunion of the 5th Wis. Infantry was held at Appleton, Wis., the 24th day of May 1898. The meeting was called to order by Gen. Allen, the President. Richard Carter was elected Secretary pro tem. A Committee on programs was appointed consisting of Capt. I. M. Bean, Geo. B. Engle Jr. and Robert Brand. On motion the meeting was adjourned to May 25th at 10 a. m. At above hour meeting called to order by Gen. T. S. Allen, President. Committee on programs reported.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Gen. T. S. Allen was, on motion of Capt. Bean, unanimously elected President for the ensuing year.

Capt. I. M. Bean was unanimously elected First Vice-President. Interesting addresses of acceptance were made by Gen. Allen and Capt. Bean. Comrade Geo. Kyle moved that a Vice-President be elected for each Company, which motion was amended by Geo. B. Engle Jr. that the President appoint such Vice-Presidents. Motion as amended was carried. Richard Carter was elected Secretary, and Henry Curran was elected Treasurer.



Comrade Chas. A. Clark, formerly Adjutant of the 6th Maine was introduced and addressed the meeting. He said he felt he was one of the old 5th and that all of the 6th Maine felt the same way. He made a very feeling and felicitous speech.

Comrade Geo. B. Engle Jr. then made a very happy speech about the 5th Wis and 6th Maine, speaking of Charles F. Powell, who was discharged that he might be sent to West Point and who is now a prominent engineer officer.

Capt. Bean then introduced a resolution asking the President of the United States to appoint Major Charles F. Powell a Brigadier General of Volunteers and moved its adoption. Comrade Hale spoke on its adoption, which resolution is on file and was adopted and the Secretary was directed to forward the resolution to the President.

Captain Richard Reed of the 43rd N. Y. was then introduced and made a short speech. Captain Thomas Blair of the "K" Company died August 1st 1897, aged 69 years. Captain Chas. A. Clark, formerly Adj't of the 6th Maine, and Capt. Richard Reed of the 43rd New York, were elected honorary members of the Association.

Col. John G. Clark also took a lively interest in all the proceedings.

Adjourned to 3 p. m.

At 3 p. m. Association met and the President announced the following Vice-Presidents:

Co. A. Geo. B. Engle Jr., Chicago, Ill.

" B, P. R. Tiffany, Fond du Lac, Wis.

" C, William H. Landolt, Wauwatosa, Wis.

" D, D. H. McMillen, Oshkosh, Wis.





- Co. E, W. D. Harshaw, Oshkosh, Wis.  
 " F, Robt. Powrie, Fond du Lac, Wis.  
 " G, John W. Curran, Madison, Wis.  
 " H, Abram Denney, Green Bay, Wis.  
 " I, George F. West, Darlington, Wis.  
 " K, Geo. H. Le Fevre, Shiocton, Wis.

On motion of Captain Bean it was decided that Col. Clark and all other members who desire, send any information they have in relation to the history of the Regiment to the Secretary. It was decided to hold the next meeting of the Association in Milwaukee in 1899. Time to be left to the executive committee.

The following telegram was ordered sent to Gen. Amasa Cobb:

LINCOLN, NEB.

COL. AMASA COBB:

The 5th Wisconsin represented by a large number of its surviving members acknowledges with delight the receipt of your despatch and sends to you its heartfelt greeting.

5TH WISCONSIN.

The following despatch was sent in reply:

LINCOLN, NEB., May 25th 1898.

TO 5TH WISCONSIN, APPLETON, WIS.:

God Bless the fifth Wisconsin, the sixth Corps and all old soldiers.

AMASA COBB.

Speeches were made by Gen. Allen, Captain Bean, Col. Clark, J. B. Canterbury. Geo. B. Engle, Jr., Cap. Charles A. Clark, 6th Maine and Capt. Richard Reed 43rd New York and others, deprecating the thought that there was any lack of comradeship felt by the members of the original Regiment with those of the reorganized 5th. After an exceedingly pleasant and profitable meeting the Association adjourned to meet at Milwaukee in 1899.

Receipts from members \$39.50.

RICHARD CARTER, Sec'y.





## ROSTER OF MEMBERS AT APPLETON.

- ✓ Allen, T. S., Col., Oshkosh, Wis.
- ✓ Andrews, Paul, Company D, Stevens Point, Wis.
- ✓ Andrews, S. W., Company D, Stevens Point, Wis.
- ✓ Aldridge, Francis, Company D, Waupaca, Wis.
- ✓ Arno, M., Old Company C, Menasha, Wis.
- ✓ Ashby, Major, Company E, Winneconne, Wis.
- ✓ Anderson, J. S., Company A, Manitowoc, Wis.
- Brazee, C. J., Company G, Merrill, Wis.
- Baldwin, H. B., Company E, Waupun, Wis.
- Brand, Robert, Regt. Band, Oshkosh, Wis.
- Bub, Joseph, Co's C and A, Milwaukee, Wis.
- Bean, Irving M., Company F, Milwaukee, Wis.
- Burwell, A. W., Company B, Endeavor, Wis.
- Bandow, Theodore, Company E, 686 15th St., Milwaukee, Wis.
- Bubol, Daniel, Company A, Reedsville, Wis.
- Brown, Geo. M., Company E, Menasha, Wis.
- Carter, James A., Company K, Oshkosh, Wis.
- Canterbury, J. B., Company D, La Crosse, Wis.
- Clark, John G., Lt. and Q. M., Lancaster, Wis.
- Carter, Richard, Company I, Dodgeville, Wis.
- ✓ Cook, J. H., Company I, Appleton, Wis.
- Clark, Chas. A., Adj't 6th Maine, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
- Curran, Henry, Company G, Stevens Point, Wis.
- Connell, Wm. S., Company E, Shiocton, Wis.
- Chubbuck, Thomas E., Company E, Seymour, Wis.
- Cotter, Edwards, Company G, reorganized 5th. Montello, Wis.
- Cady, H. P. Company H, Depere, Wis.
- Curran, J. W., Company G, Madison, Wis.
- Denney, A., Company H, Green Bay, Wis.
- Engle, Geo. B. Jr., Company A, 142 Washington St., Chicago, Ill.
- Francis, Daniels B., Company I and B, New Auburn, Minn.
- Follett, Francis, W., Company E, Oshkosh, Wis.
- Fillmore, John A., Company K, Hortonville, Wis.
- Greely, James H., Company B, Stockbridge, Wis.
- Gilbert, John, Company A, Clark's Mills, Wis.
- Gahlke, Ludwig, Company C, Soldier's Home, Waupaca, Wis.
- Garrity, T. C., Company B, Galesburg, Ill.
- Gilson, C. H., Company I, Greenbush, Wis.
- Himmelbach, B., Company K, Chippewa Falls, Wis.
- Hale, Geo. W., Company B, 100 State St., Chicago, Ill.
- Hoskins, W. H., Company E, Clintonville, Wis.
- Howie, D. W., Company B, Milwaukee, Wis.
- Harshaw, W. D., Company E, Oshkosh, Wis.



Hartung, Charles, Company C, Green Bay, Wis.  
 Johnson, Oscar, Company I and B, Brothertown, Wis.  
 Kyle, John, Company B and I, Downville, Wis.  
 Kyle, George, Company I and B, Downsville, Wis.  
 Knoll, W. R., Company K, Omro, Wis.  
 Kees, Wm. H., Company G, Milwaukee, Wis.  
 Lone, Wm, Company K, Plainfield, Wis.  
 Le Fever, Geo. H., Company K, Shiocton, Wis.  
 Landolt, Wm. H., Company C and A, Wauwatosa, Wis.  
 Lansing, Willard, Company E, Menasha, Wis.  
 Leonard, J. H., Company A, Green Bay, Wis.  
 Leykom, John R., Company A, Antigo, Wis.  
 Murray, W. G., Company B, Marshfield, Wis.  
 McFaddan, Andrew, Company F, Oconto, Wis.  
 McCafferty, T, Company A, Waupaca, Wis.  
 McMillan, D. A , Company D, Oshkosh, Wis.  
 Main, Gilbert S., Company E, Appleton, Wis.  
 Maidam, S., Company E, Appleton, Wis.  
 Matthews, R. P., Company H, Minneapolis, Minn.  
 Merritt, Jeremiah, Company B and K, Chilton, Wis.  
 Mader, George, Company E, Winneconne, Wis.  
 Niedecken, H., Company B, Milwaukee, Wis.  
 Nevitt, C. R., Company E, Oshkosh, Wis.  
 Powrie, Robert, Company F, Fond du Lac, Wis.  
 Rowe, Samuel F., Company G, Weyauwega, Wis.  
 Rickaby, W. H., Company A, Niles.  
 Smith, Ben, Company D and B, Oshkosh, Wis.  
 Stillman, David B, Company E, Grand Chute, Wis.  
 Tiffany, P. R., Companies I, B and K, Taycheedah, Wis.  
 Verity, Wm., Company E, 890 Atlantic St., Appleton, Wis.

Total number present 73.





---

*Reunion of the  
Fifth Wis. Vol.  
Infantry...*



1861 - 1865.

HELD AT MILWAUKEE,  
WIS., MAY 16TH AND  
17TH, 1899. : : : :

---





## HEADQUARTERS

*Association of Fifth Wis.*

*Volunteer Infantry,*

.....ROOMS OF.....

**LOYAL LEGION.**

---

Milwaukee, Wis., May 16th, 1899.

Preliminary meeting called to order by Col Thos. S. Allen, President, at 8:30 P. M.

On motion a Committee of three, Oscar H. Pierce, George B. Engel, Jr. and Irving M. Bean on order of business was appointed.

Committee reported as follows:

Meeting to be called to order by President at Headquarters May 17th at 9 o'clock A. M.



Reading of minutes of last annual meeting.

Election of officers.

Addresses and papers.

Discussions and Miscellaneous Business.

Selection by vote of next place of meeting.

Report of Committee adopted.

Comrade Engel spoke feelingly of the death and character of Maj. Enoch Totten, and on motion of Comrade Engel which was adopted, a committee of three, consisting of Col. Amasa Cobb, Irving M. Bean and Geo. B. Engel, Jr., was appointed by the President to draft suitable resolutions of regret for the death of this much esteemed Comrade.

Col. Amasa Cobb, I. M. Bean, Geo. B. Engel, Jr., Silas I. Parker, Capt. Robert Ross and, Col. Thos. S. Allen made interesting speeches.


Preliminary meeting adjourned to May 17th, at 9 o'clock A. M.

---

MILWAUKEE, MAY 17th, 1899.

Association called to order by President Allen, Oscar H. Pierce acting as secretary in the absence of Secretary Richard Carter.





Minutes of the last meeting held at Appleton on May 24th and 25th, 1898, read and approved. Election of officers being next in order, Comrade Ben F. Smith moved that order of business be changed and election be postponed for one hour; motion carried.

Addresses and papers were next in order.

Chairman Col. Amasa Cobb of Committee on Resolutions on death of Maj. Enoch Totten reported as follows:

"It having pleased God, since the last meeting of this association to remove from the earthly circle of his usefulness our beloved Comrade Col. Enoch Totten, Second Captain of Company F., we but obey an impulse of our nature when, while we bow with reverence to the decree of Him who doeth all things well, we deem it not irreverend to cry out in our grief. "Why should the span of life be so short and why should the inevitable depletion of numbers be initiated by the taking of one whom we cannot spare."

He ever was a brave and gallant soldier, a true and honest man, a genial and open hearted comrade, in every relation of life he bore himself well and fairly won the confidence, esteem and love of all.

We who, save his bereaved family, knew him best, bear this witness and offer this one and yet proud tribute.

To his family we tender our heartfelt sympathy in their great loss.

Chairman Cobb moved the adoption of the resolution

Capt. I. M. Bean seconded the motion, and in a feeling manner spoke of his boy-







hood associations and intimate acquaintance with Maj Totten.

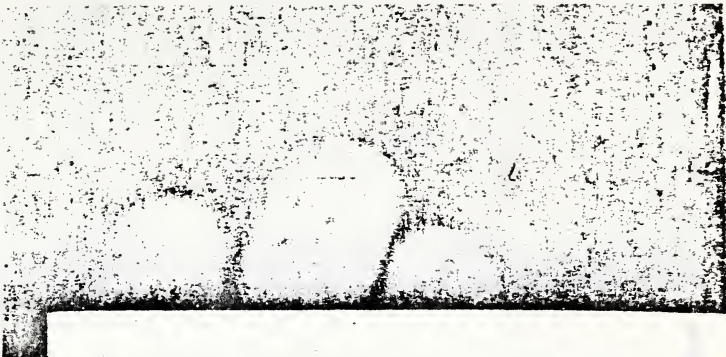
Resolutions adopted unanimously by rising vote and ordered spread on the minutes of the association.

Election of Officers was now declared in order by the President. Capt. Robert Ross suggested that as Milwaukee was the most convenient place in the State for the holding of the annual meeting, moved that the principal officers be chosen from this city and its immediate vicinity. Comrade S. G. Waite opposed the motion, stating that in old times the boys took their orders from Col. Allen, now they proposed giving orders to him and keep him in the Chair. Capt. Ross withdrew his motion.

Comrade D. W. Howie nominated Thos. S. Allen for President for ensuing year. Spencer G. Waite seconded the nomination. Col. Allen attempted to withdraw his name and decline the office, the members refusing to hear him. Col. Amasa Cobb was called to the chair and Ben. F. Smith moved that Col. Allen be elected by acclamation; motion was carried unanimously and Col. Thos S. Allen was declared duly elected.

The President-elect resumed the chair and in a hearty manner thanked the mem-





bers for their renewed expression of esteem and for the honor conferred.

The President then retired from the Chair and called on Capt. Irving M. Bean first Vice-President to preside. Capt. Bean on assuming the Chair, congratulated the members upon their action in re-electing Col. Allen.

Ben F. Smith nominated Capt. I. M. Bean for the office of First Vice President, nomination seconded by D. W. Howie and Capt. Robert Ross. Vote taken by the Secretary and Capt. Bean declared unanimously elected.

Comrade Howie nominated Oscar H. Pierce for the office of Secretary and Treasurer. Pierce declined and nominated D. W. Howie, nomination seconded by Capt. Ross.

A unanimous vote was cast for Howie and he was declared duly elected.

Comrade Engel moved that when the association adjourn, it adjourn to meet in Milwaukee at a time to be appointed by the officers. Motion was carried.

Comrade Engel moved that the Chair appoint an Executive Committee of three members from the Counties of Milwaukee and Waukesha. Col. Cobb proposed to



amend by adding Cook County, Ill. The amendment was carried, also the motion as amended.

Jack Ross of Waukesha moved that the President appoint a Vice President from each company of the regiment to include both the old and the re-organized regiment. The motion prevailed.

Col. Henry Fink being present was invited to address the meeting which he did in a very happy manner. On motion of B. F. Smith, Col. Fink was duly elected an honorary member of the association.

Judge J. S. Anderson gave some interesting details of the battle of the Wilderness.

Robert Brand, member of the band, gave an interesting talk on Williamsburg.


President Col. Allen moved that this association give an expression of hearty approval of the project to establish a Military Park or Parks on the sites of the Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Spottsylvania battlefields.

Comrade Geo. B. Engle spoke of the part taken by the Fifth Wisconsin and Sixth Maine Regiments in charge on Marve's Heights, Fredericksburg, Va., on May 3rd, 1863. He presented a memorial to the Wisconsin State Legislature recommend-









ing that action be taken to place monuments and markers to indicate the position of the Regiments participating in the engagements.

A letter was read from Maj. Chas. F. Powell, U. S. A., who served in the Fifth Wisconsin until October 1863, when he was appointed and graduated as a cadet at West Point, and was assigned to duty in the regular army, and is now stationed at Pittsburg, Pa., from which the following extract is made:

"From time to time I have noticed efforts of Fredericksburg people to have the government establish a battlefield park there. Monuments and tablets anyway should be placed there to identify the battle lines for historic purposes, and to commemorate the glorious deeds and heroic sacrifices of brave men. No battlefield ever witnessed more.

Our regiment was not called upon to do much at Gettysburg, yet on visiting there a few years ago I easily traced the regiment's positions by the tablets. The Antietam field is splendidly marked as a general rule, and a most interesting place to examine; but during a day's visit I could not find any marks of our regiment's position, where we stood on the battle-line on Sept. 17th, a little to the right of the Dunker Church, ready and waiting for the order to charge, which never came.

I have been over the ground at Williamsburg, where the earthworks and natural features of the ground are undisturbed, and traced our flank movement and the position of Hancock's fight.

But Marye's Heights was the great fight of the Fifth Wisconsin. I should like to see a splendid monument erected there to its memory, and be able to



identify the different river crossings and route of the regiment's charge up the Heights, and the advance of the Sixth corps and its fight to the river bridges, when Hooker left the corps to the mercy of greater part of Lee's army.

Seconded by Col. Cobb. Motion carried.

Capt. Thos. Flint gave an entertaining talk.

Col. Allen talked of fighting after Fredericksburg and recrossing the Rappahannock at Banks Ford.

Capt. M. L. Butterfield described some of the war relics in his possession, including a necktie worn by General Phil. H. Sheridan.

Dinner hour having come, comrade Engel moved that a recess until 4 o'clock be taken, that the members might participate in the parade. Motion carried.

The Association was called to order again at 4 o'clock by the President after having participated in and witnessed a very successful and handsome parade of the old vets, escorted and accompanied by the National Guards, Infantry, Cavalry and Artillery, by the Cadets from St. Johns Academy, Delafield, Wis., the returned Wisconsin Soldiers of the Spanish War and the entire City Government of Milwaukee, the latter in carriages.



The following resolutions were presented by Col. Amasa Cobb of Lincoln, Nebraska and adopted.

*RESOLVED*, That the thanks of the association of the Fifth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry be and are hereby heartily tendered to Capt. Irving M. Bean, and through him to the Military Order of the Loyal Legion for the kindly spirit manifested by them in opening their rooms for our use during this reunion.

We also desire to express our earnest thanks to the members of this association resident in Milwaukee for the generous hospitality extended to us during our stay in their midst.

Col. Cobb related his experience while traveling and stopping in California, New Mexico, Arizona and Texas, and of the attention shown him by members of the G. A. R. and Loyal Legion, and of the intense regard for these Military Orders in those States and suggested that a start be made toward preparing a Roster of the Fifth Wisconsin Infantry Regiment.

The suggestion was endorsed by Judge J. S. Anderson, and by Capt. Bean. It was moved that every member present be requested to send to the Secretary the name and address of every living member of the regiment and also the names of all those known to have died. The motion was carried.

President Allen withdrew and Vice-President Bean assumed the chair.







Capt. M. L. Butterfield addressed the meeting relating incidents of the battle of Winchester and also of the fall of Petersburg. He read an article from the New York World published immediately after the Petersburg affair, giving credit to the Sixth Army Corps as being the first inside the city.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

Receipts from members \$21 50.

O. H. PIERCE, Acting Secretary





**Register of 5th Wis. Infantry, May 16, 1899.  
Milwaukee, Wis.**

NAMES	Co. Reg.	Post Office Address.
Allen, T. S.....	Col. 5th,	Oshkosh, Wis.
Anderson, J. S.....	A, 5th,	Manitowoc, Wis.
Bandow, Theo.....	E, 5th,	Milwaukee.
Balding, T. E.....	B, 5th,	Milwaukee.
Beau, O. W.....	D, 5th,	Minneapolis, Minn.
Bean, Irving M.....	F, 5th,	Milwaukee.
Bessinger, Henry.....	C, 5th,	Watertown, Wis.
Bidenken, H.....	B, 5th,	Milwaukee.
Blugnagh, David.....	I, 5th,	Gratiot, Wis.
Blodgett, Philip.....	D, 5th,	Wis. Vet. Home.
Bolte, Wm.....	C, 5th,	Milwaukee.
Brand, Robert.....	Eand.	Oshkosh, Wis.
Brazee, C. T.....	G, 5th,	Merrill, Wis.
Bub, Joseph.....	C, 5th,	Milwaukee.
Burwell, A. W.....	H, 5th,	
Butterfield, M. L.....	F, 5th,	Waukesha, Wis.
Carter, Richard.....	I, 5th,	Dodgeville, Wis.
Carter, James H.....	K, 5th,	Waupaca, Wis.
Clark, Col. John G.....	Q M, 5th,	Lancaster, Wis.
Cobb, Amasa.....	Col. 5t,	Lincoln, Neb.
Conklin, Chas. M.....	D & R, 5th,	Adrian, Mich.
Conlon, J. H.....	B, 5th,	Ripon, Wis.
Cox, Joseph L.....	A, 5th,	Milwaukee.
Crocker, W. H.....	A, 5th,	Milwaukee.
Culver, Orlando.....	F, 5th,	Waukesha, Wis.
Curran, J. W.....	G, 5th,	Madison, Wis.
Engle, Geo. B.....	A, 5th,	Chicago, Ill.
Farr, H. L.....	H, 5th,	Madison, Wis.
Fish, Joel A.....	I, 5th,	Plainfield, Wis.
Flint, Capt. Thos.....	I, 5th,	Albany, Wis.
Gilbert, John.....	A, 5th,	Clarks Mills, Wis.
Gritzmacher, Wm.....	C, 5th,	Milwaukee.
Gross, Fred.....	F, 5th,	Plainfield, Wis.
Harwood, O. P.....	I, 5th,	Plainfield, Wis.
Heitmann, Ed.....	C, 5th,	Milwaukee.



Holt, M. A.....	E, 46th,	Madison.
Howie, D. W.....	B, 5th,	EauClaire, Wis.
Ingalls, Alfred.....	K, 5th,	Lynton, Wis.
Iversen, J. C.....	C, 5th,	Milwaukee.
Kees, Wm. H.....	G, 5th,	Milwaukee
Klock, George.....	B, 5th,	Waukesha, Wis.
Landolt, W. H.....	C, 5th,	Wauwatosa, Wis.
Lindeman, Ed. G.....	C, 5th,	Milwaukee
Longstaff, Lewis.....	D, 5th,	Milwaukee
Lowe, John.....	K, 5th,	Utica, Wis.
Ludwig, Chas. ....	F & H, 5th,	Milwaukee.
Mader, Geo.....	E, 5th,	Winneconne, Wis.
McDonald, Joe. M....	B, 5th,	Chicago, Ill.
Micholl, John.....	C, 5th,	Pine Bluff, Wis.
Oliver, J. B.....	B, 5th,	Milwaukee.
Parker, Silas J.....	B, 5th,	Channahow,
Perrigo, M. M.....	B, 5th,	Albany, Ill.
Pierce, O. H.....	B, 5th,	Milwaukee.
Riekaby, Willore.....	A, 5th,	Niles, Wis.
Rohrer, Henry.....	K, 5th,	Milwaukee.
Ross, Robt. D.....	B, 5th,	Chicago, Ill.
Ross, John.....	F, 5th,	Waukesha, Wis.
Schierl, William.....	K, 5th,	Milwaukee.
Sinclair, Geo.....	B, 5th,	Nat. Home Milwaukee.
Smith, Ben.....	D & B, 5th,	Oshkosh, Wis.
Volkmann, Fred R....	C, 5th,	Milwaukee.
Vollert, Charles.....	C, 5th,	Pewaukee, Wis.
Waite, Spencer G.....	B, 5th,	Milwaukee.
Ward, W. B.....	F, 5th,	Milwaukee.
Westenhagen, Eric....	C, 5th,	Milwaukee.
Young, Elijah.....	D, 5th,	Milwaukee.





1764902

**Officers Elected for the Current Year.**

.....  
THOS. S. ALLEN, President.  
IRVING M. DEAN, First Vice-President.  
AMASA COBB, Second Vice-President.  
D. W. HOWIE, Secretary and Treasurer.  
JAS. M. BULL, Chaplain, Minnesota.

**Executive Committee.**

O. F. PIERCE, Milwaukee.  
GEO. B. ENGLE, Jr., Chicago.  
JOSEPH BUBB, Milwaukee.

**COMPANY VICE PRESIDENTS.**

Original Co. A—J. S. ANDERSON, Manitowoc.  
" Co. B—J. C. IVERSON, Milwaukee.  
" Co. C—WM. H. LANDOLT, Wauwatosa.  
" Co. D—BENJAMIN SMITH, Oshkosh.  
" Co. E—HENRY CURRAN, Stevens Point.  
" Co. F—M. L. BUTTERFIELD, Waukesha.  
" Co. G—WM. H. KEES, Milwaukee.  
" Co. H—FRANK A. PEASE, Menominee, Wis.  
" Co. I—GEO. KYLE, Downsville.  
" Co. K—B. HIMMELSBACH, Chippewa Falls.

**REORGANIZED.**

Reorganized Co. D—W. C. YOUNG, Stevens Point.  
" Co. E—GEORGE MADER, Winneconne.  
" Co. F—FRANK W. FOLLETT, Oshkosh.  
" Co. G—JOHN W. CURRAN, Madison.  
" Co. H—H. L. FARR, Madison.  
" Co. I—THOMAS FLINT, Albany.  
" Co. K—J. F. ELLIS, Eau Claire.



# REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## Fourteenth Annual Reunion

OF THE

## 5th Wisconsin Vol. Infantry



1861-1865

HELD AT....

Milwaukee, Wisconsin,

Wednesday and Thursday,

June 27th and 28th, 1900.



# Our Honored Dead.



## BAND.

ALDEN B. WINN, Jan. 29th, 1892, Beloit, Wis.

FRANK A. WINN, May 1st, 1895, Beloit, Wis.

FRANK S. FENTON, Oct. 28th, 1896, Beloit, Wis.

CAPT. ROBERT DONALD ROSS, Co. B, Nov. 5th, 1899, Chicago, Ill.

GEORGE W. SINCLAIR, Co. B, 1899, Milwaukee, Wis.

JAMES MCINLEY, Co. D.

BREED B. BALDWIN, Co. E, March 12th, 1899, Waupun, Wis.

CORP. WILLIAM VERITY, Co. E, Appleton, Wis.

ISAAC A. COTANCH, Co. G, March 14th, 1894, Brushville, Wis.

HENRY N. LEWIS, Co. G, Breckenridge, Mo.

JOSEPH HARKER, Co. H, Eureka, Wis.

PALMER BEULIN, Co. K, June 27th, 1897, Mefflin, Wis.

PETER H. SOPER, Co. D, 1898, Milwaukee Vet. Home.

CHARLES MCCOY, Co. D.

ALFRED INGALLS, Co. K, Aug. 2nd, 1900, at Linton, Wis.

It has been found by communication to all addresses contained in such lists as were in our possession, that the above members have died since the organization of this Association.

This list is probably not complete.







T-8349-983

# PROCEEDINGS

AT THE

## ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

### Association of Fifth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry

HELD AT MILWAUKEE JUNE 27th-28th, 1900,

Rooms of Military Order of the Loyal Legion.

The reunion of the survivors of the 5th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry was called to meet at this time and place because of the low railroad fare prevailing by reason of the Summer Festival at Milwaukee.

The very pleasant and beautiful quarters of the society of the Loyal Legion were open to us by the courtesy of that society. Owing to the absence of our president, General Thomas S. Allen, the meeting on the morning of the 27th was presided over by Captain Irving M. Bean, our most efficient vice-president.

George B. Engle, Jr., elected secretary pro tem.

Chairman Bean—I was under the impression that at some meeting there had been a regular order of proceedings adopted, but I don't find one, and, in the absence of any regular order of business that should be transacted, anything that may occur to any of the comrades present will be in order.

Secretary Engle—Mr. President, it seems to me that it might be possible at this meeting to have a little bit of a campfire; we have several men here that can talk, and I think Comrade Anderson from Manitowoc, Company "A," has some reminiscences always at hand, and I suggest that he entertain us first.

Chairman Bean—It seems after all that a regular order of business was adopted at the last meeting. Perhaps we had better follow it, deferring action upon the suggestion of Comrade Engle for a few minutes.

Secretary Engle—I move that as the proceedings of the last meeting are all published in printed report, that that part of the order of exercises be omitted.

Motion seconded and carried.

Chairman Bean—The next order of business here is the election of officers.

Comrade Ben Smith—I move that that be deferred until some time after our proceedings this morning; that it be brought up at a later session of the society.

Motion seconded and carried.

Chairman Bean—The chair takes pleasure in availing itself of the suggestion of Comrade Engle, and we should be pleased to hear some remarks from Judge Anderson of Manitowoc. (Applause.)

Judge Anderson—Mr. Chairman and Comrades: I had some thought some time ago about making our meeting interesting in the way of recalling, or recording, rather, some of the occurrences that took place down in Virginia in the course of the regimental history, and it was my intention to prepare a paper on the history of the course of the regiment during the Wilderness campaign. That is a part of our regimental history, as far as the public is concerned, that is more obscure than any portion of our career. It was the hardest, I think, that we experienced. It took place in those Virginia thickets, and a great deal of the history of the regiment from May 4th up to June 12th or 14th will never be known.



In looking up my material for the paper which I intended to prepare, and which I may say I have on hand perhaps to a greater extent than any other one of the regiment, I found three letters which, read together, give a connected history of the regiment from May 4th up to the time we closed around Cold Harbor, and I thought that I could do nothing better than simply to take those letters, written at that time by a boy to his people at home, and give them here and now; and I think you will agree that, while the letters are crude with the crudities of a boy that simply went out of school into the army, that they are a reasonably faithful picture of what occurred down there.

The first I will read is a letter written to my father and dated May 13th, 1864:

Dear Father:

I suppose you are all in a state of the most harrowing anxiety up in Wisconsin, each one fearing that his family circle has been broken, and well you may, for this has been a terrible and bloody campaign, and many of our brave boys have fallen. Our regiment broke up camp at Brandy Station on the 4th of this month and marched to the Rapidan, which we crossed at Germania Ford, and bivouacked for the night in an open field about two miles beyond.

Next morning we marched along the Fredericksburg and Gordonsville Plank Road till we struck the Old Verdiersville road, where we turned to the right and commenced advancing carefully. We did not go more than a mile before we found the enemy in heavy force, when we formed in line of battle and commenced driving them. Our regiment formed in line under a heavy skirmish fire, and five companies from the right were thrown out as skirmishers. We charged on their skirmishers with a yell and drove them out from behind their logs and trees in a hurry, but not until they had killed and wounded quite a number of our men. It was here that Michael Pilcha of our company was killed and young Croissant wounded.

We kept advancing and driving them until about 4 o'clock, when the rebels advanced on our left with the intention of flanking our line of battle. They broke through the skirmishers of the 49th N. Y. on our left and were working right around into our rear when the major gave the order to retreat, which we did in a hurry. The rebels followed us up close, when the right of our line swung into the rear and captured nearly 300 of the 25th Virginia, colors and all. This is quite a neat affair when we take into consideration that only our right wing, not more than 200 men in all, were engaged in it.

The right wing was relieved and went again to the colors. We lay all that night in line of battle, and next morning the rebels attacked us and were repulsed with heavy loss, but we also suffered much from their batteries, which threw canister at us when we tried to follow them. This took place in a dense thicket and our ranks were broken at every step. Sergt. Enert and Priv. Jos. Stroff were wounded here, also Sergt. Rickaby. We lay quiet all this day, doing nothing but some sharpshooting. A line of breastworks was built in our rear and in the afternoon we fell back behind them. Just at dusk the rebels, having massed their forces, charged on our right and broke through our line. Our brigade front repulsed them handsomely, but we had to evacuate our works that night. We marched all night and formed a new line across the Fredericksburg and Gordonsville Plank Road. The rebels did not dare to attack our front that day, but sallied down on the 5th Corps, which sent them back much faster than they came. We left our position at 9 o'clock that night and marched all night and next day till nearly noon, when we came to Spottsylvania C. H. and went right into action in support of the 5th Corps, which was heavily engaged. We skirmished with the enemy all that day and the next till nightfall, when we charged the enemy's center works and were repulsed with heavy loss. We were again in action yesterday, being under a heavy musketry fire nearly all day, losing quite a number of men, among them Lieut. Gibson, who was wounded in the head. On the 10th I was slightly wounded in the face by a piece of shell. Our loss in the company is as follows:

Lieut. A. B. Gibson,  
Sergt. Enert,  
Sergt. W. Rikaby,  
Corp. J. Valentine,  
Corp. J. Anderson,  
Corp. J. Jackson,  
Priv. G. Lindeman,  
" G. Hermann,  
" J. Meisnest,

Wounded in head.  
Wounded.

" slightly.  
" foot.  
" slightly.  
" leg.  
" leg.  
" hand.  
" hand.





- .. Albert Payne.
- .. M. Picha.
- .. John Stahlie.
- .. Jos. Stroff.
- .. Arnold Wagner.
- .. Charles Weidner.
- .. Anthony Cadwell.
- .. J. Beaumieau.
- .. L. R. Croissant.
- .. G. W. Holbrook.
- .. J. W. Ewing.

Killed.

- .. leg.
- Wounded shoulder.
- .. side.
- .. hand.
- .. leg.
- .. face slightly.
- .. leg.
- .. hand.

Missing. Supposed to be killed in the charge of the 10th.

You can judge what we have suffered when we had only 28 muskets to start on the campaign with.

I have to cut short or I shall not get this letter off

Your son,

J. S. Anderson.



GENERAL AMASA COBB.

I follow that letter by one of May 15.

Camp of 5th Wis. Vols., Near Po. River, Va., May 15th, 1864.

Dear Father, Mother and Sisters:

As all is quiet today I thought I would drop you a line to let you know that up to this time I am all right. I sent you a letter on the 13th, but I do not know if it will ever reach you. I will now try and give you some account of what our regiment has passed through in the last two weeks.





We broke camp at our winter quarters on the morning of the 4th inst., and marched to German's Mills, at which place we crossed the Rapidan and halted in an open field about two miles from the river, where we bivouacked for the night. Next morning, the 5th, we commenced advancing upon the Old Verdierville road and soon our scouts reported the enemy advancing on a by-road upon our right flank. Our brigade was rushed in, double quick, but before our lines were formed the enemy's skirmishers were firing into our regiment. Cos. A, C and I were immediately thrown out as skirmishers and we charged at them on a dead run and drove them out from behind trees and logs in a hurry, but not without loss. It was here that Michael Pilcha was killed, and Levi Croissant wounded. This happened about 10 A. M., and we were re-inforced by Cos. D and G, composing the right wing of our regiment, and drove the enemy before us until about 3 P. M., when the enemy charged the skirmishers of the 2nd Div. on our left with two lines of battle, as a matter of course breaking right through and getting in our rear. Maj. Totten ordered the two left companies back double quick and back we went and formed our lines and advanced again. In the meantime the other three companies swung around into the rebels' rear, who, being taken completely aback at this state of affairs, surrendered to a force of but little more than half their number.

We turned over to the Provost Marshal in one squad 286 prisoners of the 5th Alabama and 25th Virginia Regiments. The colors of the latter regiment also fell into our hands. In the meantime the left wing of the regiment had also been heavily engaged and many of our boys fell in that day's fighting. Our company had one killed and seven wounded.

We joined the left wing in the front line of battle that night, and the next morning the rebels attacked us in heavy force. We repulsed them and advanced our lines to the edge of a small swampy creek, on the other side of which the rebels had a battery within 300 yards of us, which dealt out liberal rations of canister and shell. Had this been in an open country it would soon have been settled by a charge, but you must bear in mind that all this happened in the famous Wilderness and the brush was so tangled that you could not see over 20 or 25 yards ahead of you. We fell back to the crest of the hill that overlooked the creek and built a breastwork of logs and dirt, for "Old Johnny" (Sedgwick) said: "Boys, they'll try you hard about sundown;" and sure enough they did try us and partially succeeded in breaking our lines. Our brigade front held their own but the rifle pits were carried away to our right in the 3d Division and we had to leave that place and form another line; this we did, having to march all night. In this day's work Co. A had four wounded, amongst them Sergt. Enert.

On the morning of the 7th we formed a line across the Fredericksburg and Gordonsville Plank Road at a point about three miles west of Robertson's Tavern. With our left flank joining the 5th Corps and our right well guarded by a division of Cavalry. The enemy made no demonstrations on our line, but charged a battery on our left in the 5th Corps and got badly handled by our boys. About 9 o'clock that night we packed up and started on what we thought was a retreat to Fredericksburg, but were undeceived at daylight when we found ourselves pressing rapidly towards Spottsylvania C. H. About 11 A. M. we heard heavy cannonading ahead of us, and, on emerging into an open field, saw the 5th Corps boys driving the rebels before them up a hill. The enemy however were flanking them on the right and our brigade was thrown into position on the run and skirmishers advanced which checked the rebels in their onward career. They then opened with shell which did not hurt any one much.

That night at dusk we were all massed for a charge which was to be led by the Iron Brigade for the 5th Corps, and the 5th Wis., 6th Maine and 119th Pa. for the 6th Corps. We were, however, stopped by the rebels, who made demonstrations as if about to charge upon us, which would have been all we could have desired, as at that point our troops were massed column after column. They did not charge; however, although they drove our skirmishers inside of the breastwork we built. This of course stopped our movement and thus ended the day of the 8th. During the night, however, there was an alarm and some raw recruit in the second line of battle shot into our ranks and wounded G. Holbrook in the hand.

On the morning of the 9th we moved off to the left and entrenched. As we were getting into position an ambulance passed us to the front on a double quick and soon the words passed around from one to another, "Johnny is wounded" (meaning Gen. Sedgwick). We could not believe for a long time that our kind old leader



had fallen, but soon it was confirmed that he was indeed gone. There is not a man in the 6th Corps but what mourns his loss, nor any one in the whole army for that matter. I shall never forget him as he looked on the night of the 6th when part of his line was broken and he rode up to our regiment, and when he saw our part of the line so cool and determined, he took off his hat and bowed. The men jumped to their feet and cheered as they never did before, right in the face of the enemy who advanced about the same time, but met a volley that sent them back much quicker.

There was much heavy skirmishing this day (the 9th I mean) in which many of our regiment were wounded and killed, but none from our Company. We lay all night in the rifle pit, and the next day (the 10th) the rebels opened upon us with shot and shell, wounding one or two of our Regiment. I got a bruise on the right



GENERAL THOMAS S. ALLEN.

cheek from a piece of shell, luckily it struck my gun stock or it might have given me an ugly wound. Just before dusk our division was taken out of the rifle pits and with the Vermont Brigade charged the rebel works in our front. We went clean through three lines of works and could easily have held them if other columns had done their duty and gone up on our flanks. As it was we had to get out of there in a hurry for they were pouring in a perfect storm of lead and iron from every direction upon us. We held the front line of works for a long time and finally were ordered back to the works we started from. Our Company lost in that charge one killed and five wounded, only one slightly. We were much disheartened by this failure for we knew it was none of our fault or lack of courage. We lay in our old place that night and sadly counted over the missing ones. Next day (11th) we moved and commenced building a line of works to connect with the 2nd Corps





on our left, but left the position and went back in the rear of the works we had built on the 9th. This was the only time we were not in the front line.

(12th) Next morning the division was marched back, as we understood, to rest and to clean our arms, but we had not marched half a mile and stacked arms before the order was "take arms," and away we went to support Harcock, who had charged the rebels just at daybreak, completely turning their right flank and taking over 3,000 prisoners, 18 guns and a large number of colors. We were soon in under a heavy musketry fire. The rebels had charged back on our men and had partly succeeded in retaking a portion of their works.

We formed a line on our right flank around a section of a battery which our men had been driven from. I had fired nearly all the ammunition out of my upper boxes when I noticed one of Co. E of our regiment, who formerly belonged to a battery. I threw down my rifle and caught up a swab and called to him to "let us work the gun." The first thing I got hold of was a fuse shell which he cut at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  seconds, and we let them have it. It burst into the 1st South Carolina Regiment, who were coming to relieve the men at the rifle pits, killing and wounding about 40, at least so the prisoners reported who came in some time afterwards. We worked the gun on them until we fired all the ammunition there was in two limbers, and this at a distance of about 10 rods from their rifle pit. Solid shot went through their breastwork every time, scattering the rails and logs over the top of it, and giving the lines in the rear a taste of what was going on. In addition our men were keeping up a steady musketry fire, and if any poor rebel showed his head he was almost sure to get a bullet in it. This was the hardest fighting of the whole field, and lasted from 7 A. M. until 3 P. M., at which time the rebels surrendered. Our division lost heavily this day. Our Company had four wounded, amongst them Lieut. Gibson, who was in command of the Company. We now number 12 muskets and are commanded by Sergt. Rickaby. Lieut. Norris, Co. I, 6th Maine, was killed in this fight. He is a relative of G. W. Emery and the Misses Norris, of Manitowoc, Wis. At dark our brigade was relieved from the front and we fell back and rested for the night.

(13th) Our Corps rested. The rebels having fallen back, skirmishing is going on to find out the position of the enemy. We lay in the rebel works all night, and at daylight on the 14th moved to the left and lay in the rear of Burnside's Corps.

Our forces rested until the afternoon, when the Jersey Brigade, who were skirmishing to find out the position of the enemy, ran into a heavy force on Burnside's left. Our Corps got under way in a moment and after shelling the heights across the Po River charged up, but there was nothing there except a few skirmishers. This about ends the heavy fighting up to this date, but it may be resumed at any moment. The rebels made a dash around to try and get at our trains but were driven back in a hurry by the 1st Div., 2nd Corps, and 3d Div. of our Corps. This happened yesterday. Our army is getting largely re-inforced, and I have no doubt will ultimately whip Lee so that his army will be totally destroyed. But there is much disaffection about the expiration of time and a break in one regiment may bring disaster to a whole corps. Our Regiment has not broken yet, on the contrary, our conduct has been honorable in the extreme as our lists of killed and wounded will show, and a stand of rebel colors is not apt to be taken by a regiment that breaks to the rear. Few men they would lose by discharging the men from the date of their enrollment.

What adds to the general discontent, is the fact that the Penna. Reserve Corps is It would add enough to the *morale* of the army to more than compensate for what being discharged from this date while other troops are kept; so much for the contract between Gov. Lewis and Curtin. When Gov. Lewis was in the regiment he promised to do all that could be done. "Why has he not done something?" is the inquiry in the regiment, and I think with some cause. But enough of this

Last night was the first mail we received from the time we started (May 4th), and didn't we have a stack of it? You ought to have seen the boys—all had something to read, although we expected an attack every moment.

I got eight letters, three of them from you, and also ten papers. The Milwaukee papers of the 12th were the first newspapers we got which said anything about the fighting.

I should like much to answer all the letters I have received, but am unable. This will have to answer for all the folks.

Crocker is well and sends his regards to you all. He got hit on the shoulder and it was pretty sore for a day or two, but it is all over again. Turpin is not with us. His wound broke out before we left camp and he was sent off to Washington again.





Remember me to all my friends who inquire for me. I sent a list of killed and wounded to Capt. Smith so that all could know how their friends were. As for those that I know in other regiments, I will say Jul Borchardt is all right. Lieutenant Norris killed. Washburn was all right on the 9th, further I can not say.

My love to all.

Your son and brother,

J. S. ANDERSON.



CAPT IRVING M. BEAN.

The next letter is a short one written at Cold Harbor, Va.

Cold Harbor, Va., 9 miles from Richmond, June 4th, 1864.

Dear Parents and Sisters:

In these days when every hour is a skirmish or a battle, I suppose you are all and I have tried to improve them all as much as possible. I wrote to you on the 13th of last month, and also on the 18th, and I wrote Uncle Walter on the 20th, and marked on the envelope where we were on the 28th, and told him to write and let you know that I was all right at that time.

There has been some hard fighting at this point. The evening of the 2nd our whole Corps charged in three lines of battle and drove the rebels from their advanced position. Yesterday morning our whole line advanced again and broke the main line of the rebels in several places, taking some 3,000 prisoners and 8 guns. Our Regiment was not actively engaged. Last night the rebels charged on the 2nd Corps away to our left and got badly punished for their pains. Besides being repulsed with loss, our men charged out after them and captured some more guns and prisoners, taking the main line of works in their front. The loss in our regiment in the charge on the evening of the 2nd was 19 killed and wounded, including two commissioned officers. We have only five officers left in the regiment, the captain commanding, the adjutant who only joined us four days ago, one captain and two lieutenants of the line.



None of our company has been killed or wounded since I wrote to you last. But Bill Crocker is missing. Don't say anything about it to any one, for he may be all right yet. He was left behind one night when we started on a sudden march from the right to the left flank of our army, and unless he woke up and followed us, he fell into the hands of the enemy. I have hopes, however, that he is all right yet, and until you hear further say nothing.

This is a terrible campaign, neither side will yield, and although we drive the rebels from position to position, they fall back and fight us as wicked as ever. Today is the 30th day we have been on this campaign and nearly every day of that time has been spent in fighting.

It is a bitter fight and God only knows how it will end. My respects to all who ask for me. I am well, but nearly worn out by fatigue and excitement. I hope to meet you before the end of next month if God spares my life. By the way, you can tell the ladies of Manitowoc who presented that new flag to the 5th Wis. that we have taken care of it so far, although three men have fallen under it already. It is riddled with bullet holes and the staff is half shot off, about 18 inches from the top. We have not enough men to support it, however, and if we get into a tight snap we may possibly lose it. It is very conspicuous and wherever it flies there the lead and iron goes thickest.

Love to all.

Your son and brother

J. S. ANDERSON.

I have written in a hurry so don't mind mistakes.

So, gentlemen, you have a reasonably connected history of the 5th Wisconsin in the Wilderness campaign, the details of which each man must tell for himself. I thank you for your attention. (Applause.)

Chairman Bean:—I must say, comrades, that I regard the letters just read as of absorbing interest, because they have the ring of originality and truth. They present the facts as they appeared to a young soldier on the spot. They were taken by our very special and very competent artist on the spot. Incidentally, it must have occurred to all of us that the composition and style of the letters are almost extraordinary and very highly commendable, written as they were by a young lad, as he must have been at that time, for although gray hairs now crown the head of Judge Anderson, in 1864 he was very much younger than he is now. We are all greatly indebted to Judge Anderson. I am sure: it is really, to one who wants to know the exact situation of that campaign, much more interesting than any paper written in cold blood a quarter of a century afterward could be.

Now, under this order of business, addresses may be made, and we would be very pleased to hear from any one else—any other comrade here who has letters to read or remarks to make.

Secretary Engle:—Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a motion, before I present a few statistics that I have. My motion is that with the consent of Comrade Anderson, the letters he has read be published in our annual report. Seconded and carried.

Secretary Engle:—I have arranged these statistics with a view, if it is desired by the association, of having them published in our report, so that the members who have not the opportunity of getting Fox's reports, or do not care to take the trouble to write to Washington, can find this information from these statistics. It will help in making the history of the regiment and follows in line after the letters of Mr. Anderson, regarding the loss in the Wilderness campaign.

"The American Civil War was the greatest war of the Century. On the Union side alone 110,070 men were killed in battle, while 249,458 died from disease, accidents, in military prisons, or from other causes. This makes a grand total of 359,528 men who gave up their lives that the union of these United States might be preserved."

"It is hard to realize the meaning of the figures 110,070 men shot dead in battle, and this on one side only. It is easy to imagine one man killed, or ten men killed, or perhaps, a score of men killed. With some effort of mind one can picture a hundred men stretched lifeless on the ground. The old soldier recalls, as if a dream, the sight of many men lying on some battle-field, whose every unit represents a soldier's grave."—From Fox's reports.

If they could rise from their graves today and stand shoulder to shoulder, touching elbows, they would form a line 41 and 32-100 miles long. Please bear in mind that these figures include those who were killed in battle, and not those who were lost by disease, accidents, etc.





If we add the number killed, and the number who died of disease together, they would form a line 131 miles long, which would equal in distance the length of the C. & N. W. R. R. from Chicago to the Mississippi River opposite Clinton, Iowa.

There were as heretofore stated.....110,070 killed  
There were wounded.....275,175

Making the total of killed and wounded.....385,245 men.

The 6th Army Corps crossed the Rappahannock River on Grant's campaign in May, 1864, with 23,165 officers and men of all arms of the service, equipped for duty. — Official Records Union and Confederate, Series 1, Vol. XXXVI.

In the Wilderness, it lost..... 5,032  
At Spottsylvania, it lost..... 4,042  
At Cold Harbor, it lost..... 2,715

Total losses in three battles.....11,789  
which shows a loss of within 207 of onehalf of the entire strength of the Corps.  
equals about 49 per cent—a little over 49 per cent.



CAPT. ROBERT DONALD ROSS.

The losses of the Army of the Potomac from the Wilderness to Cold Harbor, both inclusive between May 5th and June 4th, were 54,951 men.

The losses of the Army of the Potomac in killed, wounded, and missing in the greatest battles of the war were:

Gettysburg.....	23,001
Spottsylvania.....	18,399
Wilderness.....	17,666
Antietam.....	12,410





Chancellorsville.....	17,287
Cold Harbor.....	12,737
Fredericksburg.....	12,653
Manassas.....	14,463
Assault on Petersburg.....	11,386

Aggregate in nine battles.....	140,001
The only other great battles fought were:	
Chickamauga. losses.....	16,179
Shiloh.....	13,047
Stone River.....	13,249

Aggregate in three battles.....	42,475
The Army of the Potomac lost in 7 days' battles under McClellan:	
Killed.....	1,734
Wounded.....	8,062
Missing.....	6,053

Total.....	15,849
------------	--------

(From W. M. Fox "Regimental Losses in Civil War.")

### FIFTH WISCONSIN INFANTRY.

**Russell's Brigade—Wright's Division—Sixth Corps.**

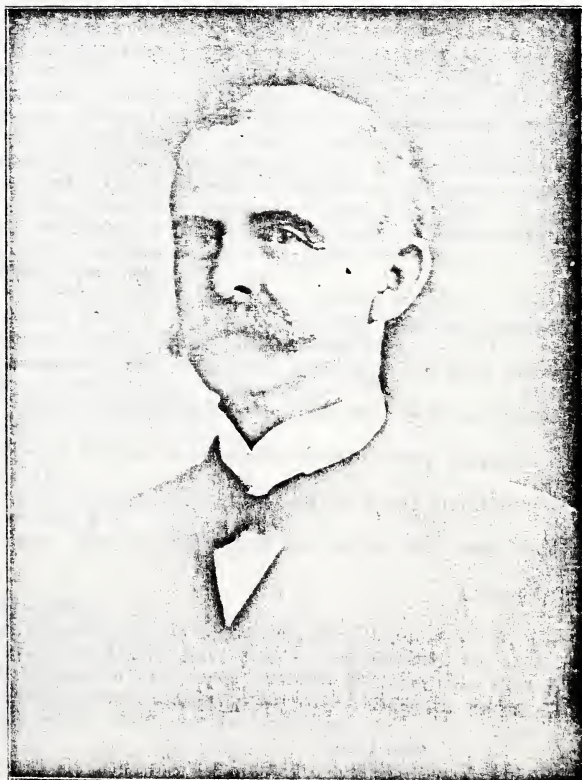
- (1) COL. AMASA COBB, Bvt. Brig.-Gen'l.  
(2) COL. THOS. S. ALLEN, Bvt. Brig.-Gen'l.

COMPANIES.	Killed and Died of Wounds.			Died of Disease, Accidents, in Prison. Etc.			Total Enrollment
	Officers.	Men.	Total.	Officers.	Men.	Total.	
Field and Staff.....	1	1	2	1	..	1	19
Company A.....	1	17	18	..	12	12	124
“ B.....	..	13	13	..	7	7	117
“ C.....	1	11	12	..	9	9	116
“ D.....	2	11	13	..	11	11	135
“ E.....	1	15	16	..	10	10	134
“ F.....	..	11	11	..	10	10	129
“ G.....	2	15	17	..	9	9	136
“ H.....	3	10	13	..	11	11	122
“ I.....	..	20	20	..	10	10	149
“ K.....	2	13	15	1	11	12	132
Veteran Battalion...	2	13	15	..	8	8	...
Totals..	15	150	165	2	108	110	1,313
Seven New Comp'n's	..	30	30	..	24	24	660
Totals..	15	180	195	2	132	134	1,973





GEO. B. ENGLE, JR. July, 1861.



GEO. B. ENGLE, JR. July, 1900.





Prior to the reorganization October, 1864, 165 were killed, 12.5 per cent. Total of killed and wounded, 749; missing and captured, 106, little over 43 per cent. The losses of the Fifth Wisconsin Infantry in battles were as follow:

Battles.

K. & M. W.

Picket, Lee's Mills, Va.....	1
Williamsburg, Va.....	17
Goldings Farm, Va.....	1
Gaines' Mill, Va.....	1
First Fredericksburg, Va.....	1
Second Fredericksburg, Va.....	49
Rappahannock Station, Va.....	15
Gunboat Service (detailed).....	1
Wilderness, Va.....	20
Spottsylvania, Va., May 10.....	31
Spottsylvania, Va., May 12.....	8
Cold Harbor, Va.....	5
Opequon, Va.....	5
Petersburg, Va., March 25, 1865.....	2
Fall of Petersburg, Va.....	15
Sailor's Creek, Va.....	23

Present, also, at Yorktown, Savage Station, Glendale, Malvern Hill, Antietam, Gettysburg, Fairfield, Funkstown, Mine Run, Fort Stevens, Charlestown, Appomattox.

NOTES.—Arriving at Washington, July 26, 1861, it encamped on Meridian Hill, proceeding thence on September 5th, to Virginia, where it was attached to Hancock's Brigade. It took a prominent part in the "superb" action of Hancock's Brigade at Williamsburg, its casualties amounting to 8 killed, 70 wounded, and 1 missing. In February, 1863, the famous Light Division of the Sixth Army Corps, composed of picked regiments, was organized. General Calvin E. Pratt in command; the Fifth was one of the regiments thus selected. In the successful storming of Marye's Heights, May 3, 1863, the regiment took a leading part in the assault made by the Light Division, earning a reputation for dash and bravery, and sustaining the heaviest loss of any regiment engaged in the assault; its casualties in that action were 35 killed, 122 wounded, and 36 missing; total, 193. In the brilliant affair at Rappahannock Station, the regiment joined the Sixth Maine in its celebrated charge on the enemy's intrenchments, sharing the honors of the victory. Major Horace W. Wheeler fell, mortally wounded in this charge, and the loss in the regiment amounted to ten killed and 49 wounded. The Fifth was ordered home for muster-out July 12, 1864; the men with unexpired terms were consolidated into a battalion of three companies, to which seven new companies were added in October. There were 14 wounded, who died of their wounds, making the loss in killed and mortally wounded, at Marye's Heights, 49.—From Fox's reports.

The losses in the 6th Maine Regiment during its three years service, in killed and mortally wounded were 12 officers and 141 men, total 153, equalling 12.6-10 per cent out of an enrollment of 1,213 officers and enlisted men.

At Williamsburg the 5th Wisconsin lost in killed and mortally wounded 17, while the 6th Maine lost only 1.

At Marye's Heights the 5th Wisconsin lost 49 killed and mortally wounded, and the 6th Maine 38.

At Rappahannock Station the 6th Maine lost killed and mortally wounded 56; the 5th Wisconsin 15.

In the Wilderness the 5th Wisconsin lost 20 killed and mortally wounded, while the 6th Maine lost only 1.

At Spottsylvania, the 5th Wisconsin lost killed and mortally wounded 39; the 6th Maine 37.

Chicago, June 5, 1900.

Adjutant General's Office,

War Department, Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir: Will you kindly have sent to my address, the totals of the daily report of the Fifth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, for May 4th, 1864, or for the nearest day previous to that date that your records show. Also the report for June 4th, 1864, or the first day thereafter that your records show, and much oblige.

Yours truly,

(Signed) GEO. B. ENGLE, JR.





(Endorsement.)

Record and Pension Office, War Department,  
Washington, D. C., June 11th, 1900.

Mr. George B. Engle, Jr.,  
188 Madison Street, Chicago, Ill.

The records of the Fifth Wisconsin Volunteers for May 4th, 1864, and June 4th, 1864, are incomplete and do not furnish the information requested within.

The return of that regiment for April, 1864, reports 552 enlisted men and 24 commissioned officers present for duty, and 74 enlisted men and 8 commissioned officers absent.

The return of that regiment for June, 1864, dated July 5th, 1864, reports 324 enlisted men, and 14 commissioned officers present, and 213 enlisted men and 8 commissioned officers absent.

By authority of the Secretary of War.

(Signed) F. C. AINSWORTH,  
Chief, Records and Pension Office.

(Returned to War Department with following endorsement.)

Chicago, June 13th, 1900.

Chief of Record and Pension Office,

War Department, Washington, D. C.

Can you give me the losses of the 5th Wisconsin Volunteers in the Wilderness, May 5th to 7th; Spottsylvania, May 10th to 12th, 1864? Would like to have the number killed and mortally wounded and number missing.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) GEO. B. ENGLE, JR.

(Endorsement.)

Records and Pension Office, War Department,  
Washington, D. C., June 15th, 1900.

"Respectfully returned to"

Mr. Geo. B. Engle, Jr.,

188 Madison Street, Chicago, Ill.

A return of casualties in the Union forces at the battle of the Wilderness, May 5th to 7th, 1864, shows that 14 men of the 5th Wisconsin Infantry Volunteers were killed, 3 officers and 118 men wounded, and 10 men captured or missing.

A return of casualties in the Union forces at the battle of Spottsylvania Court House, May 8th to 21st, 1864, shows that 2 officers and 17 men of that regiment were killed, 5 officers and 97 men wounded and 28 men captured or missing.

It is further shown by the records that 4 men of that regiment were killed, 2 officers and 15 men wounded, and 4 men captured or missing in the engagements from May 31st to June 12th at Cold Harbor, Va.

By authority of the Secretary of War.

(Signed) F. C. AINSWORTH,  
Chief, Record and Pension Office.

From the foregoing it appears that the 5th Wis. Vols had on May 1st, 1864, 24 officers and 552 men—total, 576 officers and men for duty.

There were killed between May 5 and June 12..... 37

There were wounded between the same dates..... 240

There were captured or missing..... 42

Losses in 38 days, total..... 319

Equals 55 per cent of whole number.

905. V. S.

State of Wisconsin, Adjutant General's Office,  
Madison, June 15, 1900.

Mr. Geo. B. Engle, Jr.,

803 Security Bldg., Chicago, Ill.

Sir: Referring to your letter of the 14th inst., relating to the 5th Wis. Inf. Vols., I have to state as follows:

Original strength..... 1,058

Recruits to July, 1864, (about) 311

Total recruits..... 994

Total..... 2,052



Killed and died of wounds.....	194
Died of disease.....	133
Total.....	327
Wounded.....	575
Missing and captured.....	106
Strength of Ind. Batt. (3 companies).....	391
Strength of 7 companies reorganized Sept. 5, 1864.....	669

Very respectfully,

(Signed) W. H. PATTON,  
Assistant Adjutant Gen.

This statement of the State of Wisconsin, Adjutant General's Office, makes the total enlistment 2,052. Fox Reports show:

Killed and died of wounds.....	194	Killed and died of wounds.....	195
Died of disease.....	133	Died of disease.....	134
Wounded.....	575	Killed and wounded.....	749
Missing or captured.....	106		

Killed and wounded, 769. Total losses.....1,008

Comrade O. H. Pierce:—I move, Mr. Chairman, that Mr. Engle's statistics be accepted and made a part of the report of this meeting, and be published.

Motion seconded and carried.

Judge Anderson:—I think we would all like to hear a few words from the man that made the 5th Wisconsin. I must confess that I have a good deal of the soldier in me; it runs in the blood in some way with me. My father was an officer in the British Army and served for some 7 years, there. My uncle died in the British service in India. I have some cousins now in South Africa, on what I think is the right side—I won't tell you which side it is—and as far back as I know anything about my ancestry, there have been soldiers; and I always have looked upon Colonel Cobb as the man who made the regiment that I served in. I do not think that any of us that were there will forget the time—the morning, I think—at White Oak Swamp when he gathered the regiment around him and rode into the center of it, and he said, in a few words, "men, we are going to fall back, and you may have hard marching and you may have hard fighting. We don't know what is going to happen—I haven't the least doubt that he knew instinctively, just as I did—but he said, whatever happens, and under any and all circumstances, stick to your colors; nothing can ever seriously hurt a regiment that hangs together, but if you go to breaking and separating, God only knows what may become of you;" and I think that those few words did more to hold us together during the trying march of 7 days than all the discipline of the company officers put together; and I have always had a particularly warm spot in my heart for the first leader of the 5th Wisconsin.

(Calls for Cobb and applause.)

Colonel Cobb:—The comrade made a serious mistake when he said substantially that I made the 5th Wisconsin. It was made in severalty long before I had the honor of commanding it as a regiment. It was made by that evolution which extraordinary circumstances works in men of character, of resolution and of gallantry when brought together. There is one other prominent thought in my mind in that connection. If I ever had any plan or definite system of governing the body of men who constituted the 5th Wisconsin, it consisted largely in what has sometimes been called the *vis inertia* or the power to stand still and let competent and noble men lead themselves. If I ever did my duty different from some others of my rank and like circumstances, it was in not interfering much with the men; occasionally doing a little something which would remind them of their own rights and powers and the desirability on my part and upon their own and every one's part that they could act out successfully their own dispositions to serve their country, and take care of themselves and in that way serve all the men who had been placed by fortuitous circumstances together.

Coming from generalities somewhat to particulars, our good friend and comrade Howie called the attention of some of us to a picture in the other room of the battle of Williamsburg, and I heard several of you say that it was a good picture of that battle, and also point out a figure there intended to represent myself on horseback, and I heard some of my partial friends say that I was urging the boys on. Now, the fact is, and there are some here that know it and remem-







ter it, that I was not on horseback at all during that whole operation. I rode down there as all the other field officers did, but we all saw that the horses would get killed, and they cost something, and we sent them back out of danger long before the charge was made on us. And instead of urging anybody, the only effort that I made that I remember of now, and my memory is quite distinct in that relation, was not to get on at all, but to stay and wait, that in the face of some discouraging circumstances, being to a great extent successful, is the circumstances to which we owe all there is of credit in that day; and I am egotistical enough to believe that what was done under the blessings of God and good fortune—that for what was done that day we owe a great deal, not only to the 5th Wisconsin, but the state and the cause we worked for.

There is no picture—no one picture that could do any kind of justice to that field, that engagement or whatever it may be called. First, General Hancock placing the brigade as he did in what, by military men is called echelon, the 5th Wisconsin being on the right, and to use another phrase not technically military, scattering the other regiments back, thereby making a connection with the headquarters and the right, the 5th Wisconsin. And then there would have to be another picture showing the fatal blunder—almost as fatal—you may call it fatal, for it was to a very great number of the men. I have no doubt that General Hancock ordered the staff officers, at probably the correct time, to call in the echelon. Now, that is executed properly by requiring the—there being echelon on the right—to require the right part of the echelon, which would have been the 5th Wisconsin, to fall back and form a connection with the regiment immediately in its rear; and then, if the enemy followed up and pressed, to have this new line formed of those two regiments, fall back and form a connection with the regiment immediately in its rear. Then there would be three regiments instead of one against the enemy; nevertheless, the enemy might have had sufficient strength to have compelled the whole three, or the new formation, to fall back upon the fourth and last regiment. And this order was given to staff officers of considerable experience and great bravery, and patriotism, to-wit, Lieutenant Mitchell and Lieutenant Isaac Brown Parker. They were the staff officers selected. I don't know whether it is Captain Mitchell now. We are all familiar with his title, "Mr. Mitchell," which General Hancock always called him by. He had been selected from the 9th Pennsylvania, as also had Colonel Parker, who was second-lieutenant of the 49th Regiment. They undoubtedly believed that the whole regiment was going to be subjected to very great danger and that a great many would be killed, and their minds no doubt ran to the 49th Pennsylvania rather than to the regiment, to do what they could to get them out. Anyhow, instead of going to the 5th Wisconsin, Lieutenant Parker, who was ordered to carry this order to the regiment, first rode out to the Sixth Maine. I presume—I never heard it—but I will guess, that as he rode past them, or would have ridden past them, he was asked by some of them what orders he had. That is the most charitable construction to be put on it, so far as he was concerned, and it would be very natural for them to ask him that, because they could see the advancing enemy from their position very plainly, while they couldn't be seen from where I was. At all events he told the nature of this mission, that the order was to break up the echelon or something of that kind, anyhow. And the 6th Maine turned about-face, and marched back to the original line, the General's headquarters, and that is the first thing that we knew of our situation having challenged the attention of the General at all. I illustrated it in a speech that I made before the Legion of the state where I live at Omaha. The most of you are familiar—that the first I knew of anything of this kind was this: Sergeant George E. Bissell, of Company B—he was not a citizen of the state even at the time—a very gallant and deserving man among a thousand deserving men—took me by the arm and said, "Look there, Colonel, what the devil is going on in the Sixth Maine?" Well, I turned and looked. They had just about-faced and were marching back; that was all there was of that. Then we watched Mitchell; saw some one coming riding horseback towards us and some of us knew that it was Lieutenant Parker; and even then, or not until perhaps after he had come to the 49th Pennsylvania and delivered the order there, and they about-faced, and then he commenced lying down on his face over near the mane of the horse he rode, and we knew that the bullets were whistling around him, so that he got as near on a solid body with his horse as he could.

You probably, many of you, have forgotten—the 43rd was not with us then, but



the 33rd New York had volunteered when we started on that day's march to take the place of the 43rd, the 43rd having, to some little extent, rebelled, declaring they had not received their rations for that day and would not go. Somehow or other General Smith ordered the 33rd out of the second brigade or the third brigade to take their position. But he continued on to that regiment and gave this order and they all marched away and really got back to the main line—to the line that was composed at the last earthwork on the hill, before we knew that there was any enemy really in our front. You all know there was an extensive negro quarter—a large main house and a garden and outbuildings so situated that it cut off our view entirely from the place where it turned out the rebels were operating—the place where they had attacked the force under Lieutenant-Colonel Emery, and all that. And I am sorry Captain Oliver is not here; he would recollect a circumstance which was of some importance on that day. Somebody sung out that there was cavalry charging us. Well, I think at my suggestion, Oliver, who, I believe, was in command of Company B at that time, being something of an athlete—was Captain Ross there? My recollection is that Captain Ross was not there—did not march over; he was back at—I think he had gone back to Fortress Monroe, and was there in a sanitary building, as well as Captain Behrens at the time we marched from Fortress Monroe, that is my recollection. Any way, Captain Oliver was requested by me to get up on a negro quarter to see what was coming. He got up there; he could see a great many horse, and he believed, although I thought some time afterwards it was the horses of the mounted officers that he saw and not cavalry, yet I believed the reports of the rebel sheets of that day which say that they had some cavalry. They never made an appearance on the site of the negro quarters anyway; and we had been taught all the time up to that time that when ever cavalry charged on infantry, if the infantry could, in time, they should form a square. That was a pretty hard thing to do with a whole regiment, as I learned, but to do it with only five companies, there was no rule that I knew of. Still, with the belief that within 2 or 3 minutes there would a force of mounted men turn the corner—come round the corner of that place and attack us, I gave some orders necessary to form a square of the five companies. It would have presented a square of may be 60—may be 40x46 files on the square, making use as I knew I might do, of the odd companies to fill out. And it was at that time that General Hancock and all of the other officers had all got back there and most of them had field glasses, and could see exactly what was going on, they were afraid that we would stay too long, and I thought so myself; so I straightened out the troops and marched left in front about 200 yards until we got to the south side of all those buildings; then we could see no cavalry at all, but a long line of infantry only two or three hundred yards from us, and marching in regular order right onto us; and it never occurred to me that we could beat them back to the line, but in order to see the effect of those new muskets we had—they were Austrian rifles—the firing was commenced, and by firing we could not help going back—could not help nearing the main line of our friends, but we did not go any faster than absolute circumstances compelled us to. If we had, I am inclined to think it would have been demoralized into a run, and we would not any of us have got there.

I have very carefully studied the rebel account of it. They magnify our force three or four or five times what it was, and gave some pretty good reasons for not capturing us—for they say nearly all the officers of the two regiments, which was about the center of the line, but it didn't constitute all of it, only being the 5th North Carolina and I think the 3rd Virginia, but I cannot be responsible for that—nearly all the officers, I think every mounted officer of those regiments—they all had their horse—and the men got away over in between us and the horses, and every one of them I think were killed or severely wounded, so that they had no officers at all at the time we reached General Hancock and the main line.

Before I sit down I will state that the last winter I spent in Los Angeles I had two comrades with me there, the two, Rossiter and Enert, that, I believe, belonged to Company "A" and "D"; they are both living. I saw them frequently the past winter and Mr. Enert was a sergeant.

Judge Anderson—Discharged as a lieutenant.

Col. Cobb—He was discharged as an officer, was he?

Chairman Bean—We never tire, I am sure, of listening to the reminiscences of our beloved old commander of the early days. I have reason to know that his recollection of those stirring days are almost exact. Of course, a great responsibility was





thrown upon him as being the commanding officer, and he is so constituted that he has always kept alive and fresh in his mind the memory of those old days. I was very much interested in the technical and scientific phase of his description of the echelon, etc., and have never been able to understand to this day why it was that the 5th Wisconsin was projected so far out in advance, and that part—half—on the left wing still farther out. If you will pardon me for just, in a few rapid words, recalling the facts as they come to me in my more defective memory. When we left the headquarters, you remember we came to a sort of marsh, and on the opposite hill was a redoubt or fort of some kind. We hesitated, and finally were compelled to advance in single file, and ran up there with much curiosity, not knowing for certain whether this fort was occupied or not, and found it empty, and formed again and marched on. I think we passed one other fort and finally stopped and organized at a square redoubt. After staying there a short time the 5th Wisconsin was sent in advance, oh, I don't know, 500 yards was it from that square redoubt, where there were a few negro huts. The left wing of the regiment, I think Capt. Buell probably was the senior captain, was sent out as skirmishers some distance in advance, and the right wing remained there. All of this occurred in the early part of the day. We remained all the day long; it was a misty day of the 5th of May, 1862. There was a section of that battery that had two brass guns, under the command of a German—not a German officer, but a man who was of German extraction. The main battle was going on under General Hooker about two miles distant, and we could hear the rattle of musketry and the roar of cannon. This person would amuse himself occasionally by taking a shot over the distant battlefield. We talked and chatted and enjoyed ourselves, and along about 5 o'clock in the afternoon, I very distinctly recall this—in order to get a proper view of the matter we must not forget that we were all lads almost, and even that the venerable gentleman on our right (Col. Cobb) was only still in the early prime of his life. We were all sitting, and most of the officers, I know, on a log, and the minstrel of the occasion was singing a song, and I know that the melodious voice of the commander joined in the chorus. Just about that time a solid shot came, and we rose up and the colonel, stroking his long beard, made this remark: "Gentlemen, what mout that be?" Immediately after that there was a rattle of musketry in front, and a certain officer, more enthusiastic probably than wise, climbed a fence and shouted out, "Colonel, it is cavalry." He was a very positive person. The colonel still doubted it. Nobody else could see it, but he shouted and ran up to the colonel and insisted upon it, that it was cavalry. The colonel unhappily was too much impressed with the statement of this officer, and he gave an order which would be almost impossible of execution, to form a square against cavalry with five companies. The only result of that was, of course, that it threw us into a bad muddle. Pretty soon our skirmishers commenced coming back, and as a fine illustration of what the colonel had aptly called vis inertia, I distinctly recall this, that in response to some officer who had said what are you going to do about it, the reply was, "Why, we will stay right yere," and stay we did—stayed right there until little Parker, whom we all knew—a lovely little fellow, lieutenant on General Hancock's staff—came down, mounted on a large bay horse. He was a slight young fellow and traveled under very great difficulties, because musket balls were falling around very rapidly and very promiscuously. Evidently he had a stern conviction of duty, and urging his horse forward he got near enough to the colonel to say in effect: "Colonel, General Hancock sends you his compliments and directs that you retire back to the redoubt. At that time we did, but owing to the fact of this unfortunate effort to form a square, this is true, that a part of the regiment came back on one side of the redoubt and a part on the other. We finally got back. I never knew before why it was that the 6th Maine turned and were marching in retreat. I remember distinctly that during the heat of the fray I looked back and saw the long line of glistening bayonets of the 6th Maine, and I said to myself, well, those boys are there, we will be all right, or something to that effect, and again looking back, I saw the quick turning of the muskets and they were marching in retreat, and my heart fell. I couldn't imagine what was going to occur; but they marched only a very short distance in their retreat, when again the flash of the bayonets showed that they had turned to face the enemy. Now, when we got back there, as an incident, and I take it for granted you will be interested in a little personal affair—Totten, the gallant, splendid Totten, and I happened to be together, and I said to Totten, "Let us give a cheer, they are wavering." I can distinctly recall that a little officer, a man of slight stature, of the enemy, came right up close, and it was amazing, the gallantry of those fellows—how many of them came up under such a withering fire as they were subjected to. I should call attention to this fact, that General





Hancock had about filled the redoubt, as much as he could with our soldiers, and on each side of the redoubt, flanked with long lines of soldiers all ready and waiting to fire upon the enemy, but being prevented from doing so until we had unmasked them. We stopped all advance or fire from the main body of the Union troops, because we were between the rebels and the main body. Well, now, just as I had said this to Totten a wind blew the smoke away, and it was in this way disclosed that the few remaining rebels were fleeing for their lives, and they were scattering like flying birds all over the place.

There is a story, you know, and you know it is not true, too, that General Hancock came up and said, "Gentlemen, are you ready?" That is not true at all. It is true that just as I had said this remark to Totten a wind came and blew the smoke away, and not by virtue of any order of General Hancock or any other officer, the lines partially advanced, but there was nothing to advance against.

Now, another little incident. Colonel Cobb that evening—he may not recall the fact—put me in charge of a squad of men to go out and look to the care of the rebel wounded. Well, I got a stretcher and some men and went out, and among others came to a man of large, heavy bulk and stature who was groaning with pain, and upon examining him I discovered that he had been hit below the knee and was bleeding quite freely. I remember that I had a little necktie, a strong silk affair, round my neck; I took it off and made a tourniquet, as the surgeons say, above the wound, turned it very tight and stopped the flow of blood. Then with all the care that we could we lifted him on a stretcher and put a knapsack under his head and made him comfortable. Finally he turned to me and he said with much curiosity in his expression, "Be you a Yank?" evidently amazed that any act of martial courtesy could come from the foe so much maligned among his comrades. That is one rather amusing incident. Another striking thing occurred. I was walking along with the master mechanic, Captain Emerson—you may not know it, all of you, but every captain of the regiment was dubbed something, and Emerson, owing to his great success in building a bridge across the Chickhominey, was known as the master mechanic. He stopped and said, "There is a nice fellow who has gone," a man apparently lying dead; but in the instant we stopped and looked at him I thought I detected a movement of life, and I instantly dropped down and put my ear to his heart, and I said, "Great heavens! Captain, this man is not dead." Well, he is dead, he is shot through the head." I said, "I don't care where he is shot through, he is not dead." Now, that was true; the ball had entered somewhere. I won't attempt to be too exact, and owing to that fortunate circumstance of our being there and my thinking that there was life in him, he was instantly taken up and we sent for the senior surgeon, who declined to come, and finally Dr. Crane came and the man was tenderly cared for and lived for some time. I haven't seen Emerson in a quarter of a century. I remember this, that several months afterward or some quite long period afterward he was in the Philadelphia hospital; and it is one of the most remarkable cases on record, I believe, of a man having received what would naturally be supposed to be certainly a mortal wound, having been shot through the head, and still survived.

Colonel Cobb—I will say that his case is reported in that section of surgical history which treats of desperate wounds. He was alive for, well—20 years ago, at least. But there is one thing, captain, I would like to inquire if it was your squad that found Captain Buell?

Captain Bean—No, not we. You ordered us to look out for the rebel dead. I do recall this, that while I was performing that duty, that Captain Buell was brought along on a stretcher by some of the comrades, and then I asked them to stop, and we tried to fix his head more comfortably with a knapsack, and then the dear old boy, desperately wounded as he was, and dying after years of suffering from those wounds, attempted in his ever polite and gallant way to make a salute.

Colonel Cobb—You compliment me for having a memory for these little details, and I pride myself somewhat on it, but you remember this interesting incident of yourself and Captain Emerson finding that man and all that you have said is absolutely true, as it was reported to me then; but the captain did not agree that this man was alive, and he was standing bending over looking at him, until he opened his eyes and said, "Have you got any whisky?"

A Comrade of Co. I—The comrade he is speaking of was of our company, John Daniels.

Captain Bean—John Daniels was his name, Company "I." But do you know anything about him?



Comrade—I have tried to find out about the case, and I never could get any history of it at all. That was the last we ever knew anything of it.

Chairman Bean—I wish to say that I was charged to bring the greetings of an officer of the 49th Pennsylvania, one whom Colonel Cobb will remember distinctly, Captain Campbell, of the 49th Pennsylvania. You remember the morning that we started to leave our camp there to march back about two miles, and Campbell of the 49th Pennsylvania was left behind with his company, and there was an attack made upon him, and he resisted it successfully—not only that, but drove the enemy back and captured a rebel officer, a Colonel LaMar. Captain Campbell, I am very pleased to be able to inform you, is in Philadelphia. He is the general counsel of the Philadelphia & Reading road, a man who has had a very successful and almost a distinguished career; a very able lawyer and living in Philadelphia.

Comrade A. C. Bowen of Company "B" and "I"—By the way, comrades, Governor James G. Lewis, the only war governor now living, sends his best regards to the 5th Wisconsin.

Judge Anderson of Manitowoc—I will say that Williamsburg was the only battle of the 5th Wisconsin that I was not present in the front line, and thereby hangs a tale. Colonel Cobb will probably remember that he was called on by a foreign gentleman, the Duke D'Charteris, for a certain picked detachment from his company, to go out and get a gun, even before the battle opened. He got us into the woods and got us thoroughly under fire. The Duke D'Charteris left as soon as the ball opened, and left us in the woods all night. In the early morning Captain Walker—we were left out there without any orders, as I understood—Captain Walker took Sergeant Rickaby and myself and put us on a little knoll off to the left of where the skirmish line was. This was in the gray of the morning, and we were there on picket. Pretty soon right over behind us came a line of cavalry. You will recollect it was raining slightly, and the cavalry had on rubber ponchos over their heads, and some had one thing and some had another, sheltering themselves from the rain, so that they looked considerably nondescript, and the little squad of cavalry separated and came out where Sergeant Rickaby and I were sitting on our knapsacks, keeping a very sharp lookout in front. The first thing I noticed a couple of men got in front and one on side of Sergeant Rickaby, and they were asking him in rather peremptory terms to hand over his gun; and just about the same instant two or three of them came and wanted mine, and I thought to myself, "There is some cavalry coming to play a trick on us fellows and get our guns away from us," and I remembered we used to do that sort of thing with each other in the early days, and I objected in somewhat strenuous terms, and told them to go on with their damned scouting, he couldn't have my gun, anyway. Just then the fellow in the rear said, "Slash the damned Yank over the head with your sabre." That kind of roused my curiosity a little, and about simultaneously with my refusal the fellow horseman stuck his hand into his holster and took out his pistol and said, "Now, hand me that gun." The invitation was so pressing I couldn't resist it any longer, and handed over my gun. "Now," he said, "pick up your knapsack and come on with us." So we picked up our knapsacks, Sergeant Rickaby and I, looking mighty sheepish being caught in such a way. We started ahead and went on probably, oh, a hundred feet before we—just apparently before we struck our line, we were passing through a little thicket of pines; the main column of cavalry was going along on the main road, to reach the Williamsburg road—this was on a little blind road—and the major or some rebel officer called to these fellows, wanting to know what they were doing over there; a man behind us ran up and commenced to shout back they had got a couple of Yanks here. Rickaby and I involuntarily slacked up. Out near the main road we saw there was a kind of little gap in front of us. When their heads were turned I said, "You get out," and I made a dash into the pine brush and got into that; when they looked around they could see the pine bushes moving, and they sent a few pistol shots after us. We got back to the company and had no arms; for that reason I escaped being on the skirmish line at Williamsburg.

Comrade ———— I move we adjourn until say 4 o'clock, and then have our business meeting.

Chairman Bean—Gentlemen, before I put this motion let me advise you that it is quite important that there should be a large attendance at the next session, and there are matters of interest to attend to, papers to be read and other business to be transacted. I hope you will all try to come so there will be a larger attendance this afternoon.

The motion to adjourn was then put and carried.

Same place, 4 o'clock P. M., meeting called to order pursuant to adjournment.







Thomas S. Allen of Oshkosh in the chair—I request to be excused from making a speech. I feel happy and I am glad to see the old soldiers here. I believe every one here is an old soldier. I think they have got the courage to stay by the cause of the old corps. Will some one, if you please, make a suggestion or a motion or something of that sort?

Comrade Engle—Mr. Chairman, I have a letter from Comrade Powell which I will read.

PITTSBURG, PA., June 23, 1900.

To Mr. Geo. B. Engle, Jr., Chicago, Ill.

Dear George: Yours of the 9th ult. was duly received. I telephoned Charley Miller and urged him to attend the reunion; he answered that he could not possibly be away from his work more than one vacation, which he had arranged to take at the time of the Grand Army Encampment. I have not seen him recently, but have met Mrs. Miller, who says Charley works hard and during long hours.

For myself I had intended to go to Milwaukee and looked forward with much pleasure to a meeting with the old and new comrades of the "Fifth," and now to my sorrow I find that I cannot go, as the division engineer notified me a week ago that he would arrive here last Thursday, which he did, to inspect my work during a week. I've worked hard with him, day and night, in hopes he would get through by Tuesday, so I could start on the night of that day for Milwaukee. But he proposes to remain until next Thursday and we are to start tomorrow for a three days' trip up the Monongahela river. It is a disappointment to me.

I spent two days at Fredericksburg last month—meeting the Society of Army of Potomac—I took your paper upon charge of Marye's Heights and a set of official maps, and went over the ground under guidance of an old resident, talked with the present occupant of the Marye house, and consulted on the ground with an officer who said he was an aid to Gen. Shaler and at the time of the fight accompanied the column led by Col. Spear of the 61st Pennsylvania. As near as I could make out, the Fifth and the 6th Maine went up a little depression in the line of the Heights to the immediate left of the Marye house, leaving the present cemetery hill (not the cemetery hill mentioned by the Count de Paris) to their left. I had purposed to take some maps to Milwaukee and talk with you and others about the exact place of the assault.

A base for a monument to be erected by Gen. Butterfield to the memory of the 5th Corps has been placed in the National Cemetery at the head of the new street called the boulevard, leading from the town to the cemetery—you will doubtless recollect the new street. The orators had a good deal to say about the charge on that spot of troops of the 5th Corps, meaning, if they knew at all, the effort of Humphrey's division of that corps at the 1st Fredericksburg. Gen. Butterfield, however, intends, so I understood, the monument to commemorate the deeds of his corps at any and all of the Fredericksburg battles.

I also send a couple of programs of late exercises at the site of Fort Stevens, D. C., and the National Cemetery near by. I thought you and others might be interested in them. The 6th Corps, you know, at Fort Stevens in '64 drove back Early when he thought he only had some raw troops between him and the national capital. I have often wondered if the Fifth regiment was actively engaged at that time. I had planned a reservation at Fort Stevens and in fact at other points of the defenses of Washington, together with a fort drive, so-called, connecting these. A gentleman in Washington is promoting the Fort Stevens reservation project and sent me the programs.

A bill to establish the Fredericksburg Battlefield Park has passed the Senate and will or should come up in the House next session. If the bill is enacted, historic points will be marked and monuments erected, and I hope you and others of the regiment will see that the glorious deed of the Fifth regiment in leading the assault which captured Marye's Heights is properly commemorated and the spot suitably marked in granite and bronze.

One other matter. The family and friends of the late General Wright propose to place a monument to his memory at Arlington. Officers of the Corps of Engineers have given something over \$500 for the purpose. I am sure any subscription from the Fifth regiment members would be much appreciated. Perhaps some of them would feel able and would like to give modest amounts. If so I would give \$5 and more if I could. No one has mentioned this suggestion to me; it is made on my own motion.

Remember me to the boys and believe me yours sincerely,

CHARLES F. POWELL.



Last December I found it possible to wait over at Washington and go down to Fredericksburg. I hunted up Comrade James L. Parkinson, who resides in Washington and was a member of Company "B." We went to Fredericksburg together Saturday evening, leaving there at 9 o'clock Sunday evening. Early Sunday morning we went down to Franklin's crossing. We had a man that belonged to one of the brigades that defended Marye's hill, with us for a guide. He is owner of a livery stable, and was good company for us, and could tell us much that we desired to know. After we returned to Fredericksburg about noon I spent the remainder of the day looking over the ground about Marye's heights, and studying it out the best that I could. I think that Marye's house shows very plainly in itself just how we went up the hill, at least it shows where most of the shots were fired from after we were up on the top of the hill. Just at the left and the rear of Marye's house and attached to it is a low frame building, a kitchen or some such building. It was there during the battle, it is still there just as it was then, and all the bullets that went through its sides—and I suppose there may be fifty in the space of about 18 feet by 10 high—passed through the clapboarding diagonally, indicating very plainly the direction they were fired from, and that you must have gone up a hill directly to the left of Marye's house, where the hill is the steepest, or fully as steep as at any other point.

Now it seems to me by reason of the bill referred to by Major Powell, as having passed the Senate and the probability of its passing the House, making a government park of that territory, which I presume will include the Wilderness and Spottsylvania fields, and all others about Fredericksburg that can be taken in for that purpose; and certainly Marye's heights will be, that we should begin to take some steps in order to insure the proper recognition of the authorities who will have it in charge; and to see that proper inscriptions are put there in copper or bronze, as Major Powell suggests. If left to themselves no doubt the authorities will find the place on any monuments that they may erect for the names of the 5th Wisconsin and 6th Maine, as well as those of other regiments who were active on that field. It seems to me that the storming party—the 5th Wisconsin and 6th Maine—are entitled to more of a record than this. The fellow who has the most courage and the most brass and the most perseverance will come the nearest to getting proper records and markers than others. Therefore I think we should be very active in the matter.

I presume that more than likely the state of Wisconsin will in time be persuaded to put a monument there for the Wisconsin soldiers who took part in this battle, but at the same time if they do do that, we must have a committee of energetic, earnest and hard workers that will stay right with it and see that a proper record is made on those monuments."

Chairman Allen—Are there any comrades who wish to make any remarks on this?

Comrade Bowen—I wish to say that I have a perfect diagram at home of the charge on Marye's heights, and the position that the regiment was in. This I will send at any time to any comrade who wants it, and also the remarks that General Allen made at the time that he gave the order for the charge.

Chairman Allen—I do not believe that there were any shots fired until our side reached the stone wall, which was near the foot of the hill. There was the 6th Maine on the right, and whether they fired or not I do not know; they had the same orders that the others had—not to fire.

Comrade Engle—I was talking with Judge Anderson about where he went up the heights, and he told me that he approached the height, upon which the Marye's house is located, just at the left of a branch of the telegraph road—that branch that runs from the telegraph road and runs into it again where it is bordered by the stone wall. This would bring him just about in front of the wood structure that joins the Marye's house proper; and if he went up there, the rest of his company and the skirmishers must have been to his left and to the left of the Marye's house. I don't know whether the 5th Wisconsin went up on Marye's Hill or the next one close adjoining it to the south. But that someone went up the next hill to Marye's house is very evident as is shown by the shots in that house; not only in the brick house, where they do not show as much, but in the wooden one, which forms an addition to the brick house. The firing came from the direction at the left of Marye's house, and could not have come from anywhere down the sunken road in the front of Marye's house. Somebody fired these shots and it seems to me the 5th Wisconsin must have done it from the top of the hill at the south of Marye's house.

Chairman Allen—There was a redoubt on the left adjoining two pieces of artillery, and another at Marye's house.





Comrade Anderson—I will say, comrades, that there is a great deal of misconception about the battle of Marye's Height, and I do not think there was another fight that the Army of the Potomac had that has been as much discussed and disputed; and the honor of going up first has been claimed by so many different regiments. Indeed, all of the misconception arises out of the fact that there were three separate points or spurs, or you may call them, hills. One is called Lee's Hills and the other Messenger's Hills, and there is a Marye's Height proper, or Marye's Hill, where the Maryes' house stands; and then to the right of that there is still another little spur. You take some of Howe's men and you will find them claiming that they stormed and captured Marye's Heights. You take the book written by Dr. Sander (?), I think it is called "Three Years in the Sixth Corps"—it is a very readable book—but you will find that he claims there that they carried Marye's Hill, although it is corrected in the back part of the book. He says the 7th New York carried that hill. The fact is that they were not anywhere near Marye's Hill, but they did storm this Messenger's Hill. Some of the Vermonters were with him.

Chairman Allen—The Vermonters were on the left.

Judge Anderson—The 67th Pennsylvania claim they stormed Marye's Heights. Now, as a matter of fact, there was not any man of that column that went up Marye's Heights at all, not one; they all went up onto this little spur to the right of Marye's Hill and to the right of the telegraph road where there was a little fort and where they captured one gun; and the boys were on top of the hill. I remember that they yelled and shouted and tore the air while we were out on the road hunting after the men that were running. Now, those men all claim that they stormed and carried Marye's Heights. They do that in good faith; they think they did. The matter of fact is they were never on the hill which is Marye's hill.

A Comrade—Who has got the gun that was captured?

Judge Anderson—There were guns taken all along the line. There was lots of glory, and lots of men got hurt that day all along the line, that was at least three miles long, while every man of them thinks that whole line was Marye's Hill, and the result is that in the military papers and in the military reports there have been more disputes and more claiming the honor of the storming—of being the storming column that captured Marye's Heights than any other battle in the whole campaign. In my opinion the first break in that line was made by the 6th Maine, and it was made near a little house, I don't know whether it has any name or not; there was a little house standing right close to the stone wall, and it was made between the telegraph road and that little house. What troops made it I don't know, but I always had the impression it was the 6th Maine. I could see that from where I stood. I was on the extreme right. I was the extreme right man of the men that were deployed to skirmish to lead that storming column.

Chairman Allen—The 6th Maine was on your right.

Judge Anderson—No, the 6th Maine was on my left, because our men, Colonel, you will recollect, reached clear to the right, within a rod or two of the right, and I was the extreme right hand man, and the brick house was to the left and rear of me. Now, the break was made there, and that little depression, in my opinion, was about the place. I know that I had to stand there entirely alone, behind a little piece of a brick chimney. Every man of my company was shot out to my left for a distance of 12 or 15 rods, if we covered that much, possibly we did not cover as much as that, say 12 rods, and I stood entirely alone. Dr. LaCount, now of Merrill, was shot alongside of me and lay at my feet. I ran over to where the line had been broken, and I went up the hill, and this little depression, and there were rebels pitching out of the stone wall then and climbing the hill, and I let my gun blaze among them. And this shooting that our friend tells about was done by the men of the column over there to the left, and shot at an angle because the rear part of the rebels was to the right and rear, and when the line was broken at that point they fell back in that way, and the men fired after them. That was exactly the direction I fired in, to the right.

Comrade Joseph L. Cox—I remember distinctly of making that charge with the rest of the boys. Comrade Turpin and I started off to the left of this house, and were right on the stone wall. When we got behind that building we found it was more dangerous there than what it was either side. I had carried the little axe that was used for cutting up kindling wood. It was Turpin's turn to carry it, and he carried it that day in his belt. He undertook to get over to the left of this house, and got caught in the boards of the fence. Well, it started me to laughing so I couldn't assist him, and he said, "You damned fool! we will both get shot here." "Never mind, Bill," I said.





"I will let you down soon." I helped him over the fence and noticed a 6th Maine man jump up on the stone wall. As he jumped on the stone wall one of the enemy knocked him right over with a bayonet, and another man belonging to the 6th Maine—probably 25 or 30 boys behind him—yelled like a mad man, and over he went, right plumb over, never touched the wall, but he just commenced to club them right and left, and as I can remember that was the first break that was made. Now, as soon as we broke them there, we broke a hole in them to the left. The rest of the boys went right up the hill and took, as we understood, the Washington battery; as I remember there were two or three cannon there. I took two privates, and I think it was a captain, prisoners, and the captain objected to surrendering to me. He wanted to know where my colonel was. I didn't know anything about where the colonel was at that time, but while we were parleying I noticed the colonel. Says I, "Here is my colonel." But he says, "I will not surrender to him," and he tried to go back. I told him he was a dead man if he didn't follow. I took these three prisoners to the colonel, and that officer surrendered to the colonel. My impression was at that time that they belonged to an order; they seemed to recognize each other; and then they were turned over to me and I was authorized to take them back to the provost marshal. I marched them back to the rear and then I went on to catch up to the boys again. I remember simply that there was the first break that was made, right where the 6th Maine boys jumped over the stone wall. They drove them from there and drove them down to our left.

Chairman Allen—It is very difficult to get the thing satisfactory to everybody. The 36th Pennsylvania and 42nd New York were taken from our left division and put into that column—those four regiments, that is clear enough.

Judge Anderson—I know this, Colonel, that it was after we had been on top of the hill some little time—you remember that we formed a line just as quick as the boys could be restrained.

Chairman Allen—It must have been fast work because it was not five minutes before we had them beaten.

Judge Anderson—We were called in as quick as possible for fear the enemy might come back at us. It was after we had stood in that line quite a number of minutes before Howe's men gained the height, and over to the right, I know I was compelled to stand alone; I was absolutely alone where I was, to the right of our line; the skirmish line sent was far to the right of the battle front; and these men that formed Spears' column were checked and so were slow in coming up to where I was, so I was absolutely standing there alone within 50 feet of that stone wall; and I know that the lines were broken and our men on top of Marye's Heights before these men of the 61st and 43rd New York ever got to the stone wall. The fact of the matter is they never broke the line in their front at all, but it was the gradual crowding, from our boys, crowding the Mississippi regiment to the right that finally cleared the way for them to get up there. Of course, after they once got around the edge, why it was easy work for them to sweep it away, but they never broke the line in their front. It was swept away by the pressure of our boys over there to the left of the telegraph road.

I want to say, too, that about five years ago I was South, and I got into conversation with a Colonel Dudley of Canton, Miss., who was the captain in the 18th Mississippi, I think, that was in the stone wall at that time, and he agreed with me that the break was made on the left of the telegraph road, that is, on the right of the place he occupied. He said his company was just to the left of the telegraph road or almost in front of where I was, and that he escaped by taking his men—leading them away to the right of the telegraph road and then up the hill, and got back in that way. He said he lost about 18 of his men out of his company at that time before he could shake the company loose from the flank attack. I had an interesting talk with him and his ideas and recollections of the situation seemed to fit in with mine very closely.

Comrade Engle—I would like if we could have some expression on the point that I tried to bring out in this letter from Major Powell of the propriety and the necessity of having a committee appointed to look after and follow this thing up from time to time as it goes along. There has got to be somebody. I don't know as we need any committee, but it strikes me as an important thing. I don't want to make a motion to have that committee appointed and myself on as chairman of that committee. I am not trying for any such personal interest, but I would like to know what the comrades think about having some steps taken at this meeting, and follow it up at our subsequent meetings until the thing is brought to an issue.

Comrade O. H. Pierce—I move, Mr. Chairman, that such a committee be appointed and that George B. Engle, Jr., be made the chairman.





Motion seconded and carried.

Comrade Pierce—I move that Major Charles F. Powell be made a member of that committee.

Comrade Pierce—I move that Comrade Cooper of Washington be made a member of that committee.

Chairman Allen—Major Charles F. Powell is recommended as one of the members of that committee, and George Cooper another. Are you ready for the motion?

Said motion was here put and carried.

Comrade Engle—I have a very interesting letter here from Comrade Enert to myself which I will read.

LOS ANGELES, CAL., May 23, 1900.

Geo. B. Engle, Jr., Chicago.

Dear George: Your letter received. It would give me great pleasure to meet the boys of the "old 5th" at Milwaukee on the 27th of next month, but I don't see how I can do it this year. At any rate I can't promise just yet. You know the unexpected sometimes happens, and if I answer the roll call at Milwaukee next month the unexpected has surely happened.

Our old commander, Colonel Cobb, has been visiting here and has just returned home to Nebraska. I had a number of pleasant little talks with him, and was sorry that my business was such that I could not pay more attention to him. He purposes to come out next winter again and so it will give me a chance to do better in the social line next time. We made an effort to see a member of "B" company, Rossiter by name. Col. Cobb supposed that he was in the hospital, but when we called to see him he had gone to his home, a considerable distance from the hospital, and so we had to give it up. Rossiter is a very sick man and was not expected to live.

Gen. Cobb, although getting along in years, is still hearty and in good health. He is just the same—deliberate and very precise in his talk and walk. I should know him in a thousand if I heard him talk or saw him walk. May he live long and prosper.

I must not forget to thank you for the pamphlets and papers you mailed me. They interested me very much. Your proposition for a monument at Marye's Heights, Fredericksburg, to the 5th was timely. The charge and capture of the heights with the battery is still fresh in my memory. The long delay before the charge; the piling of the knapsacks in the rear, and other preparations; the boiling sun in which we lay for hours, behind the little depression in the ground; the thoughts that passed through our minds as we waited and watched for the signal. At last near the hour of noon the great big siege guns on the opposite side of the river stopped firing shells over our heads to the enemy's camp; the order, "forward double quick," was passed along the line, with the heavy skirmish line of five companies of the old 5th in advance; the scaling of the stone wall along the sunken road; the climbing of the hill; the capture of the battery; the turning of their own guns on the retreating enemy. It was all over before we knew it; we could not realize it for a moment; but it was only for a moment. For the skeleton of the regiment that reached the top of the hill reminded us strongly of what we had passed through. The search for the dead and wounded; the roll call; not a single one missing; all accounted for; some had found their last resting place; some, wounded, the hospital, perhaps maimed for life; but the record was complete and glorious both to the dead and to the living. It happened nearly 38 years ago, but it seems but of yesterday, when the mind is brought back when thinking of the scenes that occurred on that memorable occasion. There are some things we are all proud of in our life. Our soldier days are the proudest. Duty called us; we responded; performed our work, although perhaps not as willingly as we should have done—as young people are very likely to do; but nevertheless the work was done, and altogether well done, and we can all be proud of it. And to meet together on stated occasions, to "fight the fight" over again, will always be to memory dear.

If I should not meet you this time give my regards to all the comrades of Company "A," and the entire regiment; also very kind regards to Gen. Cobb and Gen. Allen and all the others that we especially learned to know.

Also write me a letter telling me of the good time you had. I remain truly yours,

JULIUS ENERT.

Colonel Cobb—I have a duty to perform of a less poetic and generally less agreeable character. I premise, with your permission, by saying that in the early part of the month of July, 1861, the 5th Wisconsin, on its road to Washington and the seat of war, found itself without transportation further at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and stopped there for two or three days. We finally got orders that took us





to Baltimore. At that time the regiment was unarmed, except some old Springfields and altered to cap from flint lock arms with which the regiment from this city, company B, was armed, and also some other picked-up arms with which another one of the regiments, which was put on the left flank, was partially armed. When we got to Baltimore, in consequence of that unarmed condition of the regiment, the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company, by its officers, refused to take us any further, giving their authority from General Banks or giving a letter from General Banks, ordering them not to bring any more unarmed troops to which I think was called "Sandy Hook," or some such place, near Harper's Ferry, which was our point to which we were ordered at that time. So we necessarily stopped at Baltimore for, I believe, ten days, and reported to General Dix. But, upon leaving Harrisburg on that march, it was discovered that there was quite a number of sick. I believe a few broke out with the measles and others were not pronounced cases of measles, but the doctors gave it another name and said it would break out into measles before long. So I detailed Dr. Wilbur, the assistant surgeon, to stay there with them and bring them up and do the best he could, and he was capable of doing pretty well, from the fact that Horace T. Sanders, the state agent, to whom I had delivered a large sum in gold, at least \$2,000, which Governor Randall gave me for that purpose, with strict orders not to let him have a cent of it until we had got beyond Chicago, and I gave it to him at Cleveland, I think, and I left him every bit of that money, with a doctor—\$2,000 was a good deal. Now, my own memory is that we saw not a word nor heard not a word from that detachment until we had been at Washington and Meridian Hill for two or three weeks, and until after I had exhausted my letter-writing patience in hurrying them up. I may be mistaken on that.

I have received a letter from a comrade which I wish to read, and then I want anybody that knows anything about it to contribute his information. This is a case of the old soldier that does not think he has enough pension and he wants it. This is dated Alliance, Nebraska, June 15th, 1900, and is as follows (letter is omitted).

(Note.—General Cobb read a long letter from Ezra Pepper, late of Co. E, 5th Wis. Infantry. Any comrade who knows anything of Comrade Pepper being left at Baltimore, or has any information relating to it, will please communicate it to General Cobb at Lincoln, Neb.)

I haven't any definite recollection. I know there were several of these men that were left there, and Dr. Wilbur, the assistant surgeon, a man that I had great confidence in as a physician, and had great confidence in his future as the manager of sick men, and the like of that, more than was justified afterwards. I don't think he was capable of management, but he was left there with this Horace T. Sander with that money, and I believe they together conceived the idea of starting a great union hospital there at Harrisburg to which all people stranded and left in sickness and all that might be cared for in the future, and hence almost rebelled against the authority of the regiment to call them in. But finally they came, and whether this man was one of them I don't know. I have no means of identifying him, or, if I did know, I would not be able to apply it to this case that I know of. I wrote to him telling him that I couldn't remember him after this lapse of time and that the boys all said that I remembered everything else, too, and that I was coming on here and that I would mention his name before such comrades as were here and ask any of them to give any suggestion to me that they could.

Comrade Pierce—I was left at Harrisburg under Dr. Wilbur's care.

Colonel Cobb—Do you remember this man?

Comrade Pierce—No; I know at the time the regiment left in the morning there were between 25 and 30 in the hospital, but I was taken away immediately from McKimm's mansion, and taken right down below the hill to a private house.

Colonel Cobb—Now, here is a point that I told him, and it works on me. I remember distinctly of leaving these men at Harrisburg, and whom they were left with—that is, whose care they were left under, and all about that. I have no recollection of any of them catching up with us at Baltimore.

Comrade ———— —Did you say you wanted to know those that were left at Baltimore or Harrisburg?

Colonel Cobb—Either one would do.

Comrade ———— —That were at Baltimore or McKimm's mansion?

Colonel Cobb—I haven't the recollection of leaving anybody at McKimm's mansion, although it is altogether—I can't put my recollection against any soldier's recol-



lection, because it is exceedingly probable—why we didn't send them down to the fort there—General Dix—or why he didn't take charge of them, as we were acting under his orders all that time that we were there. We had to report to him before we could get arms, and the order to go to Washington had come through him and it did, and I cannot now hardly reconcile the idea. However, everything was controlled by the doctors at that time, and every reasonable suggestion that they ever made I always felt it my duty to comply with—and still I would not recollect.

Comrade Pierce—My recollection is that I reached Washington the morning that the regiment went into camp.

Colonel Cobb—We left Baltimore, like tonight, this is Wednesday, I believe; then we would have gone into camp on what was afterward called Kalarama day after tomorrow morning; one day in Washington only, and we got out before noon the next day.

Comrade Pierce—My recollection is that the regiment was strung along Pennsylvania Avenue, and I came across them there and we marched out to camp the same day.

Colonel Cobb—And it is also your recollection that you were left at McKimm's mansion at Baltimore?

Comrade Pierce—No, I was forwarded from Harrisburg direct to Washington.

Colonel Cobb—And do you remember further that all of those that were under Dr. Wilbur and with Dr. Sanders there came, at the time you did?

Comrade Pierce—With the exception of two or three; two or three were not able to travel.

Colonel Cobb—I recollect a good deal of correspondence about somebody left behind there that didn't catch up as they ought to. Of course during this time I would not have much recollection. I wish if any comrade at any time learns any fact which would be to this man's benefit—to know, he would communicate with me.

Comrade Engle—I move you that a committee of three, consisting of General Cobb and two of the members of Company "B," be appointed a committee to draw up a memorial for our late Captain, Robert Donald Ross.

Motion seconded and carried.

Comrade Engle—I move that we proceed to the election of officers, which was postponed this morning until our afternoon session.

Motion seconded and carried.

It was here moved by Comrade Ben Smith and seconded and carried that the old officers of the organization be declared elected for the ensuing year.

(Applause.)

Chairman Allen—A motion was made that the memorial committee on the death of Captain Robert Ross should consist of General Cobb and two members from Company "B." The members here present from that company have selected Thomas E. Balding and Captain George W. Hale of Company "B." Now, those who favor the election of these gentlemen of that committee will say aye.

Motion carried.

Colonel Cobb, Chairman of the Committee—The memorial committee reported as follows:

We, the members of Fifth Wis. Infantry, present in regular annual meeting, assembled June 27, 1900, desire as best we can to pay tribute to the memory of our departed comrade, Captain Robert Donald Ross, late captain of Company "B," whom we all remember as a brilliant young officer, a brave and gallant soldier, and dear to us as a friend, tried, true, unselfish and devoted, we miss his genial presence. We are no longer charmed by the glow of his warm heart. We must forego the loving grasp of his manly hand. We are deprived of the genial influence of his ardent spirit. We shall be denied the example of his brave character and his devotion to his friends. We deeply mourn his loss, and can hardly be reconciled to his departure from among us.

But even in this time of our grief, we rejoice that we knew him so well that to all who knew him, his brave life shall be an inspiration to better deeds and better efforts.

The Secretary of this association is instructed to have prepared copies of this tribute and to place the same in the hands of his relatives. And the Secretary will cause to be spread upon the records of this association this memorial.

AMASA COBB,  
THOS. E. BALDING,  
GEO. W. HALE,

Committee.





Chairman Allen—Comrades, you have heard these resolutions with regard to our late comrade, reported by the committee; what shall be done with them?

Moved and seconded that they be adopted.

Motion carried.

Judge Anderson—I move you, Mr. Chairman and President, that we meet again during the next year and that the time and place of the meeting be left to the officers, the President, Vice-President and Secretary and Treasurer, to determine, or a majority of them, subject to their call, because there may come some time like this where it will be some object—where we have reduced railway rates, where there is some occasion to draw great crowds, and there will be some inducement for comrades to come, aside from the meeting itself.

Comrade Engle—There is a motion before the house. I was going to say if that motion was disposed of, as you all know there is to be a reunion of the Grand Army of the Republic in Chicago in August. It was the intention of myself and others in Chicago to try to have a meeting. There was some talk among ourselves of having this meeting put off and perhaps a meeting in Chicago. It was the idea that Captain Ross thought a good deal of, and several of us talked it over among ourselves a little, and Captain Ross being taken away, and there being a prospect of such a large crowd there, we rather dropped the matter. But I think it would be well if the members of this Wisconsin Association be notified that there can be a headquarters established in Chicago. I have an office at 188 Madison street, right in the heart of the city, and I am willing to turn that office over to the association—two rooms, about 18 feet by 20, and you are welcome to that office during the time of the convention. If you think it is worth the while to try to get together there at any time during that convention, very well; you are welcome to the quarters, and I shall be glad to see any and all members of the Wisconsin Association there at any time that they may drop in; but if they do feel like getting together, there would be the opportunity which I think might be pleasant for us to take advantage of.

Judge Anderson—This meeting of the Grand Army in August brings up other thoughts. Now, the gathering will be too large, too general, in my judgment, to conduct anything like a regimental reunion at that time, but I think the thing could be done as was done at Portland, Maine. We could do as they did, have a reunion of the Light Division; just call together the old regiments of the Light Division and the regiments of the old Brigade, that is the 49th and 119th Pennsylvania also, and the 43rd New York and let us have a reunion. That will give us a reunion small enough and yet large enough, and that, I think will be pleasant enough. There will be no question about it if it can be only circulated through the headquarters. If small dodgers would only be printed and prepared by the comrades that are resident in Chicago, or word be communicated by bulletin board, or something of that kind, we can get together a very pleasant reunion at that time of the old Light Division and the regiments of the old brigade. We did that at Portland, Maine, and the only regret of that whole occurrence that I had was that Colonel Cobb was not present, at that particular thing, because it was the most interesting military reunion that I have ever attended since the war. It did seem as if the very spirit of emotion was sweeping over everybody, and tears and smiles and everything of that character that move men were present at that meeting. There were speakers from the 49th Pennsylvania, the old surgeon of the 49th, and, I think, Captain \_\_\_\_\_ was there also, I am not certain; but Major Flower was present, of the 6th Maine, and, in fact, the 6th Maine originated and carried out the gathering, and it was—well, it was a melting time.

It was only an impromptu matter, thought of only a day or two. It simply took those who were there, that happened to come to the general encampment. The way they did, they went into the 6th Corps headquarters, for instance, and they simply wrote out a little notice: "The comrades of the Light Division are requested to meet at the tents of the 6th Maine Regiment at such and such a time," and that was put up in all the different headquarters of organizations that belonged to the 6th Corps, you understand, and at places where these congregated, at the places where they obtained information about boarding houses; they had one posted up there, and it was a little bit surprising the number of organizations that were represented.

Chairman Allen—I don't understand this is a motion.

Judge Anderson—I simply suggest that.

Comrade Engle—I can say, Mr. President, that I do not see any objection to there being some such arrangement, and I do not think there would be any trouble about it except the question of a place to meet. Now, from what little observation I have



the ... ..  
and ... ..  
... ..

... ..  
... ..  
... ..  
... ..  
... ..

... ..  
... ..  
... ..  
... ..  
... ..  
... ..

... ..  
... ..  
... ..  
... ..  
... ..  
... ..

... ..  
... ..  
... ..  
... ..  
... ..  
... ..

... ..  
... ..  
... ..  
... ..  
... ..  
... ..

... ..  
... ..  
... ..  
... ..  
... ..  
... ..

... ..  
... ..  
... ..  
... ..  
... ..

had, from the papers (I haven't been to the headquarters to find out all the details), but the societies advise us that the Board of Education will turn over all the school-houses, there are a good many—hundreds of them—so there will be no trouble about having accommodations to sleep, but the question of a hall to meet in I don't know what could be said about that. While there are plenty of halls in Chicago, it would be necessary to get one—perhaps we could get one of these schoolhouses centrally located, or use one during the day; I have no doubt but we could get one. My offices would not be large enough for the meeting of a brigade. As far as notices being gotten out, I think the Chicago papers will have full notices of all regimental, brigade, and other reunions, so that they can easily be found if that notice is given. If the 5th Wisconsin Association will take hold of the matter and start it, I have no doubt we can have a meeting of the Light Division without any trouble and have good accommodations.

Judge Anderson—We couldn't expect to have a very large meeting anyway, because, besides the 5th Wisconsin, all the regiments from those organizations are from the far East. If you get as many as half a dozen from one organization you will do well. Now, suppose we get six regiments from the far East: six times six will be thirty-six, and with the addition of those that come from Wisconsin, even that would not make a very large meeting. But we can have a very interesting time.

Colonel Cobb—I just wish to suggest that in that connection it might be of advantage to know that our old quartermaster, Captain McEntee, lives in Chicago, and has recovered his health and is a blooming young man, and we all remember the kind of times he used to show us, and everything of that kind, and I have no doubt if he were asked to that he would take a great deal of interest in bringing the old brigade, or what is remaining of it, together there. He is a very efficient man.

Chairman Allen—I do not think there was any action taken upon the location of the next meeting. It was left to the officials of the Association.

A motion was made that the elective officers of our society fix upon the time for the next annual meeting.

Motion was put and carried.

Comrade Pierce—As I recollect, Mr. President, at the last meeting a resolution was passed to hold the future reunions in Milwaukee, unless otherwise ordered.

Judge Anderson—Before we adjourn, and as far as I am concerned, I will not be able to be here, I have got to leave to-night, but I think if our Chicago comrades will take the trouble to try to secure a place of meeting and give notice of a meeting of that kind, we can have a very pleasant time down there, and I shall be there if I am at all well.

Comrade Engle—Chicago is expecting, and I don't think there is any question but what there will be somewhere in the neighborhood of 700,000 people, if not a million, not all soldiers, of course, the people who are coming there at that time with the low rate, and I hear on all sides—I was looking over the answers from the 5th Wisconsin: several of them are coming down there in August, and therefore couldn't come to this reunion. I have no doubt many who are here at this reunion will be in Chicago, and I think there can be an arrangement made so we can have a good hall.

On motion the meeting was here adjourned to Thursday morning at 10 o'clock a. m.

#### MEETING OF JUNE 28.

Comrade Oscar H. Pierce offered a resolution that a committee of three be appointed to draft resolutions or memorial on the death of George W. Sinclair of Co. "B," and James McNley, Co. "D."

Comrade George W. Hale—In view of the fact that in the near future in the natural course of events the list of those passing away will increase in numbers rapidly from year to year, and as an amendment I would move that in the future, except in very special cases, that a list of those that may pass away during the year be published in our annual report, and that memorials be omitted. Comrade Pierce accepted the amendment and the resolution as amended was passed.

Comrade Cobb offered the following, which being seconded, was adopted without dissent: Resolved, That the secretary of this association be, and is hereby instructed to use such means as he shall deem necessary and advisable, by correspondence with the members or otherwise, to stimulate and awaken an interest in its annual reunion and the perpetuation of its organization.

On the motion of Comrade Oscar H. Pierce a vote of thanks was tendered to the Society of the Loyal Legion for the use of their quarters.



Comrade D. W. Howie tendered his resignation as secretary and nominated Comrade George B. Engle, Jr., as his successor.

On motion of Comrade Oscar H. Pierce, being seconded, the resignation of Comrade Howie was accepted, and George B. Engle, Jr., was elected secretary for the ensuing year.

On motion of Comrade George W. Hale the meeting adjourned sine die to meet upon a call of the officers of the association.

#### SPECIAL NOTICE.

Every possible effort is being made by the officers of the Association to discover the residence and postoffice address of every living member of the 5th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry who served in said regiment between 1861 and 1865.

Postal cards have been sent to all members whose names and old addresses the secretary could find among the records of former meetings of the Association, asking for full name, postoffice address, State and county, together with rank and company. A large number of cards were returned for better addresses, and still others have not been heard from.

The secretary desires the addresses of all members of the regiment, and earnestly requests that anyone who knows the address of anyone not published in the following roster will kindly send them on postal or by letter to him.

GEO. B. ENGLE, JR.,

Secretary, 188 Madison Street,  
Chicago, Illinois.

#### ROSTER FIFTH WISCONSIN INFANTRY—1861-1865.

Compiled by the Secretary of the Association from names and addresses furnished by members, July, 1900.

#### FIELD AND STAFF.

Col. Anasa Cobb, Bvt. Brig.-Gen. .... Lincoln, Nebraska.  
Col. Thomas Scott Allen, Bvt. Brig.-Gen. ... Oshkosh, Wisconsin.  
Lt.-Col. James M. Bull. .... Pipestone, Minnesota.  
Surg. Ambrose Jones. .... Dalton, Sauk Co., Wisconsin.  
John G. Clark, Lieut. and Q. M. .... Lancaster, Wisconsin  
Sergt. Maj. Chas. Francis Powell, Major  
Corps of Engineers, U. S. A. .... Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.  
Richard Carter, Q. M. Sergt. .... Dodgeville, Wisconsin.  
George H. Hardy, Commissary Sergt. .... Clarion, Wright County, Iowa.

#### BAND.

Robert Brand. .... Oshkosh, Wisconsin.  
James W. Loudon, Jr. .... Janesville, Wisconsin.  
Purnice C. Hill. .... Beloit, Wisconsin.  
Robt. Powrie. .... Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.  
Geo. P. Winn. .... Beloit, Wisconsin.

#### COMPANY "A."

Capt. Wilson S. Goodwin. .... Yankton, S. D.  
First Lieut. Aaron B. Gibson. .... Robinson, Brown Co., Kan.  
Corp. James S. Anderson. .... Manitowoc, Wis.  
Francis Alridge. .... Veterans' Home, Wapaca, Wis.  
Daniel Bubolz. .... Reedsville, Manitowoc Co., Wis.  
Joseph L. Cox. .... 87 Sixth st., Milwaukee, Wis.  
Sergt. Samuel B. Clark. .... 812 Barkley st., Chester, Pa.  
Ezekiel Emerson. .... Rochester, Windsor Co., Vt.  
First Sergt. Julius Enart. .... 1527 Reed st., Los Angeles, Cal.  
Geo. B. Engle, Jr. .... 188 Madison st., Chicago, Ill.  
John Gilbert. .... Clark's Mills, Manitowoc Co., Wis.  
Louis La Count, M. D. .... Merrill, Wis.  
Corp. John R. Leykom. .... Antigo, Wis.  
Sergt. James S. Leonard. .... Green Bay, Wis.  
Edward Guido Linderman. .... Nat. Home, Milwaukee, or 227 27th st.  
John Daniel Mill. .... Hika, Manitowoc Co., Wis.  
John Mallet. .... 338 Fulton st., Chicago, Ill.  
Ole Nelson. .... Blair, Trempealeau Co., Wis.  
Albert Payne. .... Greenleaf, Brown Co., Wis.











John H. Whitmore.....Wausau, Marathon Co., Wis.  
 Elmer Young.....693 Mineral st., Milwaukee, Wis.  
 Hubert Young.....Delta, Mich.

#### COMPANY "E."

Capt. Charles R. Nevitt.....18 Bluff st., Oshkosh, Wis.  
 Corp. Hammond S. Ames.....Janesville, Wis.  
 Corp. Lucius S. Ashby.....Winneconne, Winnebago Co., Wis.  
 William Warren Bradshaw.....Washington Harbor, Door Co., Wis.  
 Sergt. Thomas E. Chabuck.....Seymour, Ontagamie Co., Wis.  
 William V. Connell.....Shiacton, Ontagamie Co., Wis.  
 Henry Curran.....Stevens Point, Wis.  
 Sergt. George W. Dutton.....Tipton, Cedar Co., Iowa.  
 Wm. M. Folsom.....Beloit, Wis.  
 W. H. Hoskins.....Clintonville, Waupaca Co., Wis.  
 Willard Lansing.....Neenah, Winnebago Co., Wis., Box 735.  
 Joseph P. Lincoln.....Ellsworth, Ellsworth Co., Kan.  
 George Mader.....Winneconne, Winnebago Co., Wis.  
 Sergt. Gilbert S. Main.....Madison, Wis.  
 Stephen Meidam.....Appleton, Wis.  
 Warren Potter.....Aitken, Aitken Co., Minn.  
 Sergt. Robert W. Rainor.....Battle Creek, Mich.  
 Sergt. Joseph C. Rogers.....Quincy, Branch Co., Mich.  
 Corp. Marin Rhoades.....1213 Main st., Rockford, Ill.  
 Lewis A. Russel.....Cadotte, Chippewa Co., Wis.  
 Sergt. James I. Towle.....Birnhamwood, Shawasso Co., Wis.  
 Henry Wagner.....Menominee, Wis.

#### COMPANY "F."

Capt. Irving McCullough Bean.....Milwaukee, Wis.  
 Capt. Miles S. Butterfield.....Waukesha, Wis.  
 First Lieut. B. Franklin Cram.....16 N. Fairchild st., Madison, Wis.  
 Henry Becker.....78 Bradford st., Albany, N. Y.  
 Orlando Culver.....Waukesha, Wis.  
 Evastus J. Dartt.....Montello, Marquette Co., Wis.  
 Joseph Dean.....Madison, Wis.  
 James Fisher.....136 Sheboygan st., Fond du Lac, Wis.  
 James C. Foster.....Shell Rock, Butler Co., Iowa.  
 Frank W. Fallett.....Oshkosh, Wis.  
 Edwin A. Heath.....Iron River, Banfield Co., Wis.  
 Sergt. Arthur Holbrook.....175 18th st., Milwaukee, Wis.  
 George Klock.....Waukesha, Wis.  
 Charles Ludwig.....610 Garfield ave., Milwaukee, Wis.  
 Andrew McFadden.....Oconto, Wis.  
 George W. Rice.....Ludington, Mich.  
 William Stenzel.....Elmdale, Chase Co., Kan.  
 Joseph Turner.....Waukesha, Wis.  
 John C. Thompson.....Grand Junction, Green Co., Iowa.  
 Willard B. Ward.....348 Virginia st., Milwaukee, Wis.

#### COMPANY "G."

Abisha Baker.....Darlington, Lafayette Co., Wis.  
 Marcus S. Barnum.....Minoqua, Oneida Co., Wis.  
 Sergt. Martin Bromaghin.....Jackson, Minn.  
 Carter J. Brazee.....Merrill, Lincoln Co., Wis.  
 Corp. John W. Curran.....Madison, Wis.  
 Edward Cotter.....Veterans' Home, Waupaca, Wis.  
 Sergt. Samuel S. S. Daggett.....Eureka, Winnebago Co., Wis.  
 Noah A. Decker.....Elliott, Ransom Co., N. D.  
 Charles Knudson.....Campbell, Santa Clara Co., Cal.  
 George M. Perry.....Black River Falls, Jackson Co., Wis.  
 Hiram Perkins.....Fitzgerald, Erwin Co., Ga.  
 John W. Stony.....Clinton, Rock Co., Wis.  
 Charles Taplin.....Wautoma, Waushara Co., Wis.  
 Moritz C. Young.....727 Montague st., Rockford, Ill.





## COMPANY "H."

First Lieut. Harmon S. Kribbs.....	Beaver Dam, Wis.
Second Lieut. Thomas J. Edwards.....	Ash Ridge, Richland Co., Wis.
Second Lieut. Horatio Leander Farr.....	Madison, Wis.
Jonathan M. Adams.....	Mitchell, Davison Co., S. D.
Sergt. Milton DeWitt Alder.....	Portage, Columbia Co., Wis.
Orlando Gardner Bills.....	Waupaca, Wis.
Adam C. Bell.....	Drywood, Chippewa Co., Wis.
John Borland.....	Menominee, Wis.
Corp. Andrew W. Burwell.....	Endeavor, Marquette Co., Wis.
Corp. Hiram P. Cady.....	DePere, Brown Co., Wis.
Frederick Hartson.....	2928 Grand ave., Minneapolis, Minn.
William Kribbs.....	Galesville, Trempeleau Co., Wis.
John R. Moon.....	Richland Center, Wis.
Corp. William Morrison.....	763 St. Johns ave., Lima, Ohio.
Corp. Thomas B. Nott.....	Calumet, O'Brien Co., Iowa.
First Sergt. Franklin E. Pease.....	Menominee, Wis.
Corp. Edward C. Pratt.....	Peaver Dam, Wis.
Edward Wessing.....	Pauckwaukee, Marquette Co., Wis.
Sergt. Sidney Windecker.....	36 Sheboygan st., Fond du Lac, Wis.

## COMPANY "I."

Capt. J. H. Cook.....	Appleton, Wis.
Capt. Thomas Flint.....	Albany, Wis.
Second Lieut. Henry B. Mason.....	Waupon, Wis.
George W. Baker.....	Albany, Green Co., Wis.
Alexander C. Bowen.....	Danville, Wis.
Freeland Z. Dexter.....	Lone Rock, Richland Co., Wis.
Joel A. Fish.....	Plattsville, Grant Co., Wis.
Daniel Vaughan Francis.....	New Auburn, Sibley Co., Minn.
Charles H. Gilson.....	Greenbush, Sheboygan Co., Wis.
Milton B. Hayes.....	Crookston, Polk Co., Minn.
Oliver P. Harwood.....	Plainfield, Waushara Co., Wis.
Corp. Oscar Johnson.....	Brotherstown, Calumet Co., Wis.
Corp. William H. Meade.....	Fond du Lac, Wis.
Charles M. Perkins.....	Gratiot, Wis.
Thomas A. Ross.....	Bellville, Dane Co., Wis.
Corp. Elliott Shadbolt.....	Brooklyn, Poweshick Co., Iowa.
Corp. David Slowhower.....	Warren, Jo Davis Co., Ill.
Henry Tipp, Sr.....	Savanna, Ill.
Henry Tipp, Jr.....	Gratiot, Lafayette Co., Wis.
Herod W. True.....	Gratiot, Lafayette Co., Wis.
Sercelleaus J. Webster.....	Lamont, Lafayette Co., Wis.
Sergt. George F. West.....	Darlington, Lafayette Co., Wis.
Wm. Zimmermann.....	Taycheedah, Fond du Lac Co., Wis.

## COMPANY "K."

Captain Shadrack A. Hall.....	Wood Lake, Minn.
Lieut. Philetus R. Tiffany.....	Taycheedah, Fond du Lac Co., Wis.
Henry Braker.....	Downsville, Dunn Co., Wis.
Corp. Levi M. Butler.....	Perlin, Green Lake Co., Wis.
Corp. James H. Carter.....	Veterans' Home, Waupaca, Wis.
William Calkins.....	Palmyra, Mich.
Parney Himmelbach.....	Chippewa Falls, Wis.
William R. Knoll.....	Shacton, Ontagamie Co., Wis.
Corp. George H. LeFevre.....	Amro, Winnebago Co., Wis.
Jeremiah Merritt.....	Gravesville, Calumet Co., Wis.
John A. Fillmore.....	Hortonville, Ontagamie Co., Wis.
William Schiesl.....	470 15th st., Milwaukee, Wis.
Samuel Thompson.....	Celoma Station, Wausara Co., Wis.
Samuel Welch.....	Baraboo, Sauk Co., Wis.





# NOTICE.



The pictures in this report are put in without cost to the Association, not being paid for out of its funds. Any member may have his picture appear in the next year book by sending his photograph and \$1.50 to the Secretary of the Association.

The reports of our Association Meetings are paid for by voluntary subscriptions made by members for that purpose. Every member of the Association should send the Secretary or Treasurer such subscription as he may feel like making for the payment of the necessary expense incurred in preparing the reports of our meetings.

The expense of stenographer in taking down a verbatim report of this meeting of June 27 and 28, and printing and mailing the same has been about \$85.00.

GEO. B. ENGLE, JR., Sec'y,

188 Madison Street,

CHICAGO, ILL.



## *Officers Elected for the Current Year.*

THOS. S. ALLEN, President.

IRVING M. BEAN, First Vice-President.

AMASA COBB, Second Vice-President.

GEO. B. ENGLE, Jr., Secretary.

D. W. HOWIE, Treasurer.

JAS. M. BULL, Chaplain.



## *Executive Committee.*

O. F. PIERCE, Milwaukee.

GEO. B. ENGLE, Jr., Chicago.

JOSEPH BUBB, Milwaukee.



## *Company Vice-Presidents.*

Original Co. A—J. S. ANDERSON.

“ “ B—J. C. IVERSON.

“ “ C—WM. H. LANDOLT.

“ “ D—BENJAMIN SMITH.

“ “ E—HENRY CURRAN.

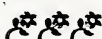
“ “ F—M. L. BUTTERFIELD.

“ “ G—WM. H. KEES.

“ “ H—FRANK PEASE.

“ “ I—GEO. KYLE.

“ “ K—B. HIMMELSBACH.



## *Reorganized.*

Reorganized Co. D—W. C. YOUNG.

“ “ E—GEORGE MADER.

“ “ F—FRANK W. FOLLETT.

“ “ G—JOHN W. CURRAN.

“ “ H—H. L. FARR.

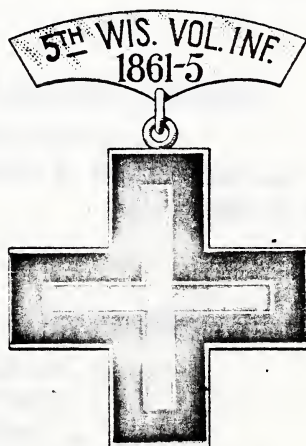
“ “ I—THOMAS FLINT.

“ “ K—J. F. ELLIS.





# Report of the Proceedings of 5th Wisconsin Vol. Infantry



Fifteenth Annual Reunion, held at Milwaukee,  
Wisconsin, Tuesday and Wednesday, July twenty-  
third and twenty-fourth, nineteen hundred and one



---

---

# OFFICERS

---

---

## ELECTED FOR THE CURRENT YEAR

---

---

### Officers

CAPTAIN IRVING M. BEAN, President, Milwaukee, Wis.

DAVID W. HOWIE, Vice-President, Milwaukee, Wis.

GEO. B. ENGLE, JR., Secretary and Treasurer, 142 Washington St., Chicago.

COLONEL JAMES M. BULL, Chaplain, Pipestone, Minn.

### Executive Committee

IRVING M. BEAN, Milwaukee

DAVID W. HOWIE, Milwaukee

GEO. B. ENGLE, JR., Chicago

### Vice-Presidents

JAMES S. ANDERSON, Co. "A"

OSCAR H. PIERCE, Co. "B"

J. C. IVERSON, Co. "C"

BEN SMITH, Co. "D"

CHAS. R. NEVITT, Co. "E"

MILES L. BUTTERFIELD, Co. "F"

WM. H. KEES, Co. "G"

ABRAM DENNY, Co. "H"

JACOB COOK, Co. "I"

HENRY ROHRER, Co. "K"





PROCEEDINGS AT THE  
ANNUAL MEETING ❀❀  
OF THE  
Association of Fifth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry  
HELD AT  
MILWAUKEE, WIS., TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY  
JULY 23 AND 24, 1901

Rooms of Military Order of the Loyal Legion

Pursuant to call issued by the executive committee, the association met at this time in annual reunion, the 24th being the *fortieth* anniversary of our departure from Camp Randall for the war. In the absence of General Thomas S. Allen, president, the meeting was called to order by Captain Irving M. Bean, first vice-president.

Chairman Bean—Comrades, in the absence of General Allen, the president of our society, it becomes my duty, owing to the fact that I am second in command, to call the meeting to order and to preside over its deliberations until at least the arrival of General Allen.

The secretary, Mr. Engle, is here present with his ever facile quill, prepared to make accurate record of whatever proceedings may be had.

In the absence of regular order of proceeding, may I now ask what is the pleasure of the meeting?

Secretary Engle—I move you, sir, that we proceed to elect officers for the current year.

Motion carried.

Comrade Oscar H. Pierce—I place in nomination as president of this society the name of Captain Irving M. Bean.

The motion being put by the secretary was unanimously adopted and Captain Irving M. Bean was declared elected. (Applause.)

Chairman Bean—Comrades, your action in having chosen me as the president of this society, is as unexpected, as it is unmerited. I tender to you, in return, my grateful and profound thanks for the preferment, together with my assurance that among the sparse honors, that have come to me during my life, not one of them has been more keenly appreciated, or highly valued, than the one you have seen fit to bestow upon me this day.

There are no ties like those which bind together veteran soldiers of a war long past. One soldier knows another as no two men in any other relation of life can know each other. Their's is an acquaintance that is profoundly intimate, the veils of dissimulation which men wear in the peaceful walks of life are entirely withdrawn in the camp, the march, or on the battle field. In these arenas of action, there can be no dodging or deception, so far at least as moral qualities are concerned, and the very man as God made him, stands out naked to view. If he is ungenerous, unkind, cowardly or mean, his comrades quickly detect these qualities; if on the other hand his bearing is that of a true soldier, being at once gentle and brave, considerate and unselfish, these qualities are also revealed to his comrades, and they pass judgment upon him accordingly. So you can imagine how profoundly affected I am by this mark of your kindness and preference, as well as how deeply thankful I am.





Comrades, long years ago, when we were young, we marched and fought in all sorts of weather, and drank from the same canteen. Too many of those, alas, who were our fellows in those distant, gallant days, now fill soldiers graves, but lamenting their absence, with tearful eyes, as we do, we who linger, can properly assemble in friendly association, and talk over the glorious deeds of that war in which we participated, and if there is to be no more marching, or fighting for us, we can at least clasp hands in the firmest fraternity, and still drink out of the same canteen.

I thank you again, comrades, for the great compliment you have conferred upon me in selecting me as your president, and I promise you that the best interests of this society shall always lay nearest my heart.

Chairman Bean—The next thing in order following our order of exercises will be the election of vice-president.

Comrade Oscar H. Pierce—I place in nomination the name of David W. Howie.

Chairman Bean—There being no other nominations, all those in favor of the election of Comrade Howie as our first vice-president will signify it by saying aye.

Carried unanimously.

Vice-president Howie—I place in nomination the name of George B. Engle, Jr., as secretary and treasurer of this association.

Chairman Bean—There being no other nominations, all those in favor of the election of Comrade Engle as secretary and treasurer of this association will signify it by saying aye.

Carried unanimously.

Colonel James M. Bull, Pipestone, Minn., was duly elected Chaplain of the association.

Chairman Bean—The next thing in order will be the reports of the secretary and treasurer. The secretary will please read his report—which he proceeded to do, giving statement of receipts and expenditures in detail, and also making report of distribution of last year's report to various libraries and military associations.

On motion of Vice-President Howie the report was received and ordered placed on file.

The report of the treasurer was then made by Comrade Howie, agreeing with report of secretary on the finances, and was ordered placed on file.

Chairman Bean—Has the secretary any further business to bring before the association?

Secretary Engle—I have received letters, some of which I will read. The first two are from Colonel Sumner of the dear old 6th Maine regiment:

"LUBEC, MAINE, March 21, 1901.

"MR. GEO. B. ENGLE, JR., Chicago, Ill.:

"My Dear Sir and Comrade—Your favor of the 18th inst. and report of proceedings of the fourteenth annual reunion of the Fifth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association came to hand yesterday. I desire to assure you that they were received with great pleasure. Lagrippe has confined me to the house for four weeks, and being accustomed to an active life, the hours, at times, have been somewhat monotonous, and I have read your report from cover to cover.

"The comparison of notes of the Maryes Heights affair is especially interesting, as I have a clear idea of the occurrences of that day which came under my own observation. At that time I held a commission as first lieutenant, company 'A', 6th Maine. Before we reached the stone wall or deep road, Captain Grey of my company was mustered out, and the command of company 'A'—the right company of the regiment—devolved upon me. If my memory serves me well, I think that that part of the 5th Wisconsin which were deployed as skirmishers in our front were pretty well merged in our line at the time we reached the road, and we are willing and glad to accord to them a full share of the glory of the break in the Confederate line on that day. In fact, we were the apex of a wedge that broke through, and, on the right and left, other troops came up, fully supporting us afterward.

"Comrade Anderson's reference to the impromptu meeting of the old brigade in Portland brought up pleasant memories. I have never attended a meeting of old comrades that approached it. The 6th Maine headquarters, where the meeting was held, was a hospital or quartermaster's tent on rough ground—not too rough to loll on, but humpy to sleep on—liberally covered with clean straw. Without organization we sailed in, the enthusiasm becoming contagious, until they came dropping in from all around—Anderson and Captain Emerson of the 5th, Dr. — of the 49th, Captain Wilkinson of the 43d New York and a sprinkling of the 6th, and at last some of the old Vermont brigade came in, thinking by the racket that we had a consignment of sap sugar. It was a joyful occasion, but I will encroach on your patience no longer.



"I have attended several of the national encampments but did not get to Chicago. I was at Buffalo and tried to find someone of the 5th Wisconsin, but failed. And now, with the assurance personally, and in behalf of the old 6th Maine, of the highest regard we hold for the members of the 5th Wisconsin, I am,

"Yours, fraternally,  
(Signed) "ALEXR. B. SUMNER."

"LUBEC, MAINE, July 20, 1901.

"GEO. B. ENGLE, Secretary.

"Association 5th Wis. Vol. Inftry., Chicago, Ill.:

"My Dear Sir and Comrade—Your circular letter announcing the annual meeting of the association is at hand, and I regret that you have advertised a paper from me, for although I fully intended to do something in that line when I wrote you, I have found it entirely impossible to do so; hence, if you use my letter of March you will tell them that I did not expect to be heralded in advance and that you will read the vaporings of an old chap just up from six weeks of the grip.

"Nothing I could do would afford me more pleasure than to meet the old comrades of the 5th Wisconsin, but I find I cannot get about as formerly, and the prostrations from heat reminded me that I must take no risks in that line, as I wish to stay on earth a little longer; and if they care to know where we are, look on the map of Maine and find in the south-east corner the most eastern point of land in the United States, Quaddy Head, which is in the town of Lubec out on the coast. Here we have a cool sea breeze and good salt air—which is all right for summer time, but the dampness in the winter reaches the marrow in the bones. I have about given up getting to Cleveland and Buffalo this year.

"Kindly convey to the comrades my best wishes for a pleasant and profitable reunion—and long life and happiness to you all. Yours truly,

(Signed) "ALEXR. B. SUMNER."

The next letter is from our old brigade quartermaster, General C. S. McEntee:

"566 EAST DIVISION ST., CHICAGO, ILL., July 20, 1901.

"Mr. GEO. B. ENGLE, JR., Chicago, Ill.:

"My Dear Comrade—Your most cordial invitation to join with the surviving members of the 5th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry in their reunion at Milwaukee on July 23 and 24 is at hand. I regret to have to say it has found me in such poor condition of health from my old enemy, neuralgia, that I am forced to deprive myself of the great pleasure it would give me to meet once again with the old comrades, as the members of the glorious old 5th Wisconsin are.

"I assure you I will be most heartily with you in spirit on the days of the reunion, and I wish you one and all the greatest pleasure in renewing old acquaintance and talking over the glorious and memorable record you made on the numerous battle-fields of Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania. Fraternally yours,

(Signed) "CHAS. S. McENTEE."

I have a short letter from Colonel Clark of the 6th Maine:

"SPIRIT LAKE, IA., July 19, 1901.

"My Dear Engle—I am spending the summer here in my cottage as usual, and I am laid up with lumbago, and having a bad time. If I can, I will surely attend the reunion of the grand old 5th Wisconsin, at Milwaukee, and I thank you for remembering me.

"On my trip to Maine, I found among General Burnham's papers, Colonel Allen's original report of the heroic charge of Maryes Heights, and sent it to Colonel Allen. So it should get into the published official records, where it belongs.

"Yours very truly,  
(Signed) "CHAS. A. CLARK."

Chairman Bean—Has the secretary anything further to offer at this time?

Secretary Engle—Having requested Comrade Julius Enert of Company "A" to furnish us with a paper on the Storming of Maryes Heights, and he having kindly consented to do so, on account of the indisposition of one of my eyes, I will ask Comrade Howie to read it, and also following that a copy of a paper written by Captain B. F. Cram for a Waukesha paper from our camp at White Oak Church in May, 1863.

Comrade Howie read as follows:







"GEO. B. ENGLE, JR.,

"Secretary 5th Wisconsin Association:

"My Dear Comrade—In response to your request, I give you my recollections of the charge of Maryes Hill, and the stone wall and sunken road at its base, as participated in by the 5th Wisconsin Infantry.

"The lapse of thirty-eight years renders the memory of many minor details rather indistinct, though quite essential in making up the history of the regiment. There are, however, certain events and incidents indelibly impressed upon our minds.

"On the 28th day of April we broke camp, and took up our part under Hooker's leadership. The 6th Corps, commanded by our beloved commander, Major General John Sedgwick, was in front of Fredericksburg, while the main army was moving by the right flank up the river against the Confederate left flank which was strongly entrenched on the heights back of Fredericksburg. It is not necessary to give more details of the movements of the army of the Potomac previous and during the battle of Chancellorsville. We are all familiar with it, and the purpose of this article is only to relate the part taken by the 5th Wisconsin.

"On the evening of May 1st, marching orders were received and the corps crossed the river below Fredericksburg at what is known as Franklin's crossing. On the night of May 2d, the corps marched up to the city of Fredericksburg. Arriving there at the break of day on the morning of May 3d, a brigade belonging to the 2d Division of our corps, charged on Maryes Hill and were repulsed. After this, a part of our brigade, consisting of the 5th Wisconsin, 6th Maine and 31st New York, were ordered to the rear of Fredericksburg and in front of Maryes Hill. It was about eight o'clock in the morning when we reached the ground over which the charge was to be made. The line was formed behind a little depression in the ground. Five companies of the 5th Wisconsin—'A', 'F', 'H', 'I' and 'B'—were deployed as skirmishers in front of the line of battle. The skirmishers were placed three or four feet apart, with Company 'A' on the extreme right, and the others in the order named. In front of this line of battle was a level plain, about 400 yards long and 150 yards wide, where the ground sloped off a little towards the left. This strip of level ground, 150 yards wide, practically covered the front of Maryes Hill. At the foot of this hill was a stone wall with a road running along side of it toward the left. On the right of the line of battle there was a road, known as the Telegraph road, running nearly straight up the hill through a shallow ravine, past and to the right of the house and out building on top of Maryes Hill. Further to the right of this road was another hill, called Stansbury Hill. There was but little level ground in front of this hill, and somewhat in the shape of a long pointed triangle, and the extreme point of which reached the river above Fredericksburg where the water was let into a canal and conveyed to the city for manufacturing purposes. This canal, which was filled with water, prevented the forming of a line of battle to the right of the Telegraph road. In this road and a little to the rear of the line of battle, there was the 61st Pennsylvania regiment formed by the flank, four abreast and following this by another regiment. The five companies of the 5th Wisconsin, who acted as a strong skirmish line, as well as the charging column of our brigade, were ordered to take their knapsacks and all extra clothing and packages to the rear, so as to be as free and unincumbered as possible when the order to charge on the enemy's stronghold should be given. It was also ordered that no firing should be done until the enemy was driven from behind the stone wall and the battery on the hill captured. After everything was ready there was a long delay of nearly three hours, before the final order to charge was given. It was a most anxious time. The sun's rays were brilliant and hot canteens were emptied to quench the thirst: not a breath of air to relieve the oppressive surroundings. All was still—the silence of the tomb;—for just in front of us was the 'slaughter pen' where only a few months before 6,500 brave comrades lost their lives in an effort to capture the stone wall and heights beyond. At last the long delay and suspense was broken. The order 'attention' transformed inaction into alertness in the twinkle of an eye along the entire line. 'Forward,' 'double quick'; clear and distinct the command was given and the charging column bounded forward as the roll of a mighty wave of the ocean. With Comrade Jas. S. Anderson I was at the extreme right of the skirmish line. The alignment of both skirmishers and regiments seemed to be almost perfect. Nearly half the distance was travelled, and not a shot from the enemy was fired. They were reserving their fire. In another moment the bullets from the men behind the stone wall and the grape and canister from the batteries on the hills above them, were flying thick and fast. With the first discharge almost the entire skirmish line was either killed



or wounded. But the few left kept going forward and it seemed that not another man was disabled on the skirmish line before the stone wall was reached. What was left of the skirmish line was not strong enough to capture the stone wall, but the regiments in line behind us kept pressing forward and when the stone wall was reached a great cheer was given, and the stone wall was taken. The storming column followed up the retreat of the enemy so closely that the batteries on Maryes Hill had not time to do any firing without killing their own men and their capture was an easy matter. Maryes Hill, somewhat the shape of a crescent, was a little in front of the high ground to the right and left of it, and the key to the line of earth works; this once taken the other defensive works would soon follow. There is no question but that the line composed of the 6th Maine, 5th Wisconsin and 31st New York, were the first to drive the enemy from the stone wall and capture the battery on Maryes Hill. The honor of first reaching the battery belongs to members of Company 'A', 5th Wisconsin. The heights and battery to the left were captured by the Vermont brigade almost as quickly. The troops that marched up the Telegraph road on the right of the charging column moved by the flank, because, as before mentioned, there was no room to form by the front on account of the canal. The 61st Pennsylvania was in the lead, followed by the 43d New York. When they had reached the neighborhood of a small house that stood on the left of the road, perhaps 100 yards from the stone wall, they received their first fire, and the head of the column was thrown into confusion but immediately rallied. The skirmishers of the 5th Wisconsin had already reached the stone wall, and the storming line of our brigade was considerable ahead of the troops on the Telegraph road. My position on the right of the skirmish line near the road, gave me the opportunity to observe what was going on, on that part of the field.

"I do not remember the number of men the regiment had in line before the charge, but it must have been less than 400. Company 'A' had 36 men in line, and the other companies of the regiment must have had about the same, for report gives the number as 157 killed and wounded, 36 missing, or more than one-third of the entire fore. The five companies that lead the advance on the skirmish line, lost nearly two-thirds of the number lost by the entire regiment, as follows: Company 'A', killed and wounded 25; 'B', 24; 'F', 6; 'H', 15; 'I', 26; or a total of 96 lost on the skirmish line.

"Immediately after the capture of the heights, the supporting column took the advance towards Chancellorsville to the assistance of Hooker. At Salem Church this column was checked in their advance, and no further progress was made. Hooker having been defeated at Chancellorsville, recrossed the river and was nearing to the old camp, in front of Fredericksburg, and Maryes Heights, so dearly captured about noon, were reoccupied by the enemy during the night. This left the 6th Corps in a very precarious position, surrounded on three sides, with nearly the entire Confederate force opposed to it. All day long Lee was getting his troops into position to force the surrender of the 6th Corps. Just before dark a strong attack was made near the river to cut us off from recrossing, but it was repulsed and during the night the troops all crossed over the river and joined the rest of the army at the old camp in front of Fredericksburg. The Light Brigade covered the retreat and was the last to cross the pontoon bridge just before daylight on the morning of the 6th of May, and received a few parting salutes from a Confederate battery stationed on the high ground along the south banks of the river, only a short distance below where the pontoon bridge was being taken up.

"JULIUS ENERT, First Sergeant, Company 'A'."

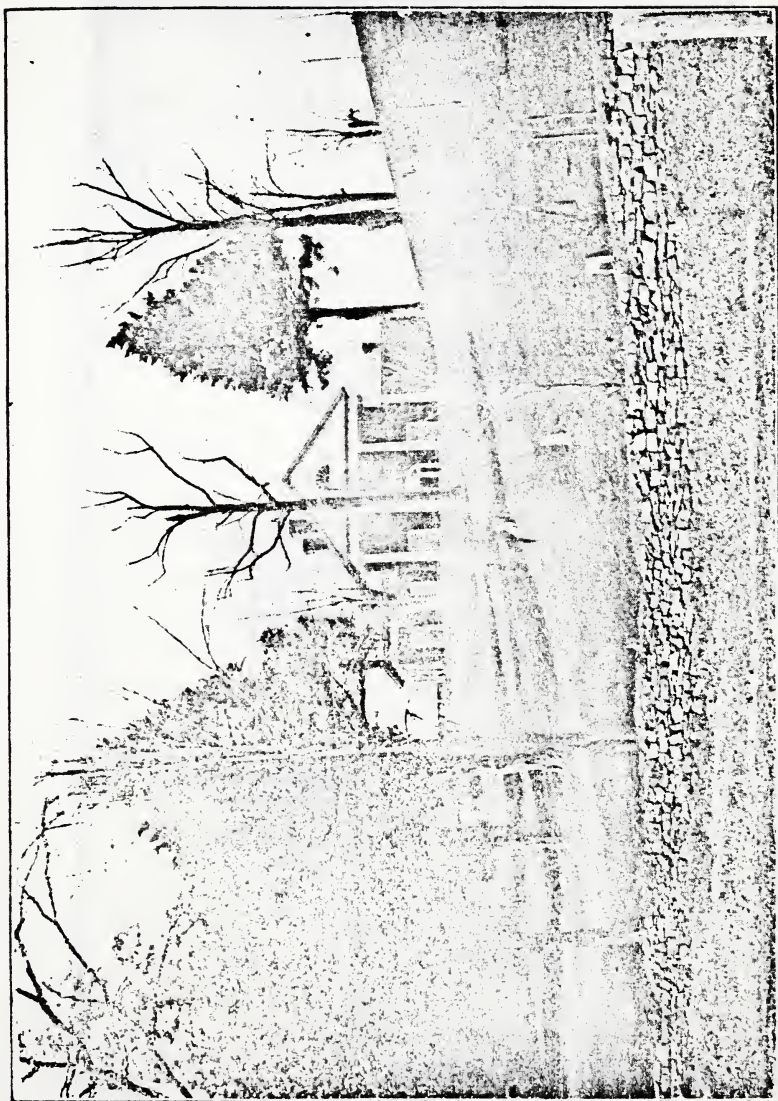
## "A SKETCH OF THE BATTLES ON THE RAPPAHANNOCK— "JUSTICE TO THE FIFTH WISCONSIN.

"CAMP, 5TH WISCONSIN VOLUNTEERS, NEAR WHITE OAK CHURCH,  
"May 16th, 1863.

"Friend Wright—Through your journal allow me to note the casualties happening to Company 'F' in the battle south of the Rappahannock, thus rendering justice to the 5th Wisconsin and 'honor to whom honor is due'. The Light Division, consisting of the following regiments, viz., the 6th Maine, 5th Wisconsin, 43d New York and 61st Pennsylvania, took up its line of march on the 28th ult., at one hour's notice, having previously been supplied with eight days' rations packed in knapsacks and haversacks, the officers transporting their own allowance on pack mules. As we were about starting out from our delightful old camp near Belle Plains,







MARYES HOUSE.  
Sunken Road in the foreground.







#### SUNKEN ROAD

From the front of Maryes House, looking south. Retaining wall at the right is wall in front of Maryes House. Retaining wall at the left with the wire fence above shows a part of what was the "German wall" at the house side of the road.



where many happy hours of 'sogering' had been passed, it commenced to rain. But on we went to face the music and strike the blow, for which the dear people had been long awaiting. We brought up about three P. M. one and three-quarter miles from Fredericksburg, opposite the Barnard mansion, where we remained until nearly midnight, when orders came for the Light Brigade to proceed at once, carrying pontoon boats to the river, the pontoon wagons not being allowed to go nearer than the above distance. Seventy men were allowed in each boat, and fifteen boats were to be taken to the river. After much lugging and pulling, and some cursing, the boats were launched just before daybreak, and two regiments from General Howe's division, the 49th and 119th Pennsylvania, crossed over and gallantly drove the rebels from the rifle pits, taking a number of prisoners. This being done we retired to the rear of the heights and made preparations for rest. Here we remained until nearly nightfall on the 1st inst. when a detail to go on picket came, ordering 'A', 'F' and 'I' companies to go on duty immediately, together with two companies from each of the other regiments. All was bustle for a few minutes among the men, then all concerned, as usual, became indifferent as to our disposal. The march was soon taken up, our gallant commander, Colonel Burnham, leading the way. We crossed the river a little before sundown and proceeded at once to our respective posts. We found all 'quiet on the other side of the Rappahannock'. A little after dark the rest of the division made the crossing, which made it as much of a joke on them as on us. In this position our line of pickets was within 300 yards of the enemy, a convenient talking distance. The first night everything went on quietly and still up till nine o'clock, when a battery from the enemy opened upon us. Our side kept cool and let him spit forth his mad mandacious messages. About midday the pickets commenced firing upon us, making us all hug the ground for protection, they having taken a position behind an old hedge in the road, while we were on an open plain without shelter, only such as might be obtained from the unevenness of the ground. With all their firing only one from the 5th was shot, and that was Lieutenant John McMurtrey of Company 'H', who was officer of the picket, being dangerously if not mortally wounded. Soon after the casualty all became quiet again, and remained so until six P. M. when it became our turn to become offended, and picket and skirmish lines advanced on 'Mr. Secesh' and gallantly drove him off the field. This was a pretty little fight but it was hardly a foretaste of what was to come on the following day. At eleven P. M. of this, 2d inst., the march was again ordered as we were to follow up the retreat. We meandered along under the heights of Fredericksburg, through brooks and over ditches and just at the break of day we found ourselves upon the outskirts of Fredericksburg. As soon as we were discovered the rebel batteries opened fire, which was responded to with vigor and magnificent effect on our side, both from siege pieces on the east side of the river and our field battery in the town. We filed up into the heart of the town and there remained about an hour, when an order came for the Light Division. Colonel Burnham of the 6th Maine commanding, to take position immediately in front of the principal stronghold, known as the 'slaughter pen', Maryes Heights. Here we took position in the following order: The right of the 5th Wisconsin, 'A', 'F', 'I', 'B' and 'H' constituting it, were deployed as skirmishers; the 6th Maine, Lieutenant Colonel Harris, was formed in rear of our right wing; the 31st New York were placed on the left of the 6th Maine and our left wing in the rear of the 31st. Here we were stationed and ordered to take the formidable works frowning down upon us with angry visages, and here we remained for three long hours awaiting the orders to make a cheerful light. Yet all were confident of success. The plan of the charge and the arrangement of the troops is due to Colonel Thomas S. Allen, 5th Wisconsin, he conducting the charge in the most gallant manner possible to mortal man. The orders were to advance at double quick, the skirmishers to advance first, then the 6th Maine in line of battle, thirty paces in the rear of our right wing, the left thirty paces in rear and left of our skirmish line, ten paces in rear and left of the 6th Maine. I recapitulate in order to show the accurate position and plan of the charge: 61st Pennsylvania, Colonel Speas, and 43d New York, Colonel Baker, made a flank movement on our right in order to attract attention of our enemy and when they (the 61st and 43d) had advanced a little ahead of our right the long dreaded word 'forward' and every man sprang forward with a spirit of valor that would have done honor to an old Spartan. On they dashed up the heights, climbing over the fated stone walls, into the works they went and in hand to hand encounter were engaged friend and foe. Our men bayoneted some, others cried for mercy, surrendered themselves and were spared. The battery of the notorious Washington Artillery of New Orleans, the pride and boast of southern chivalry, was surrendered by its commander, a very gallant and gentle-

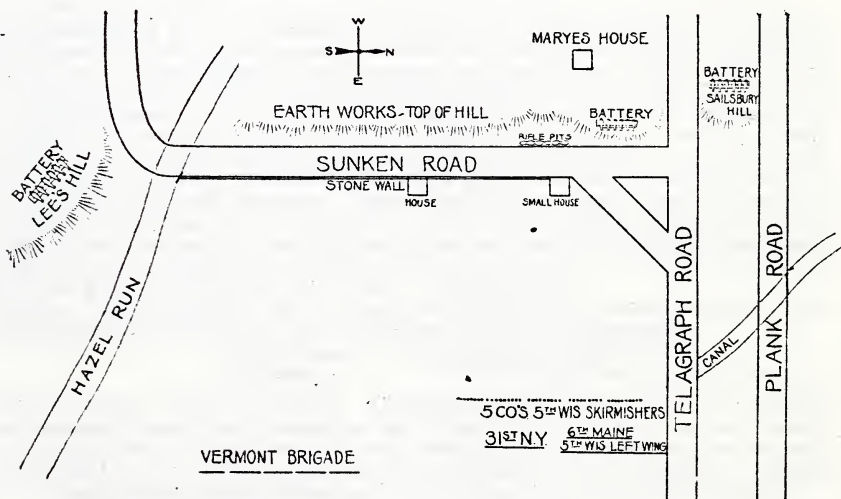






manly officer, to Colonel Allen in person, the more than gallant Colonel being the first man in the enemy's works, waving his sword and shouting 'come on boys'. Now, the heights were gained by all who escaped the terrible fire of canister and musketry of the stubborn foe. O! what carnage? What horror is seen and felt when the moment of time was found to view the bloody scene. What pangs of grief affect the soul at beholding so many brave comrades, the noble sons of proud Wisconsin, who had fallen on the bloody field. Praise is a feeble tribute to pay to the noble men of the Light Division, for their heroic deeds in taking those supposed impregnable heights near Fredericksburg. Those heights were scaled and the infantry charge made glorious in the brief space of ten minutes on a Sunday, the 3d inst. A gold medal should be awarded every man who had a hand in taking those heights as a slight reward of meritorious conduct showing that he had been crowned with imperishable glory as a patriot in aiding his country's cause. On the left of the heights which the Light Division took was another stronghold of fortifications which were stormed immediately after those the Light Division had carried, by General Howe's command, and in a most gallant and praiseworthy manner, thus securing the entire fortifications of which the enemy had so proudly and vauntingly boasted.

"Without rest or refreshment, orders came for the entire 6th Army Corps to proceed to Chancellorsville to form a junction with Hooker. Therefore, we again marched without going back to care for our dead and wounded, or field and staff



Disposition of troops forming the storming party at the time order to advance was given.

officers to obtain their horses; going about three miles we found the advance troops had overtaken the enemy and engaged him. Here we were brought into the line of battle and after much flank movement had a position assigned us, and proceeded to rest as best we could. Finally morning dawned and still our position was unchanged. This day, the 4th of May, we were shifted from one part of the field to another until about sundown; the 6th Maine, who were on picket, the 5th Wisconsin and the 61st Pennsylvania were ordered to support General Brooks' division, and away we went, double quick, through woods, brier and over fences, finding the enemy had made an attempt to surround us, cutting us off at Bank's ford across the Rappahannock, and gobble us, which attempt was foiled and the enemy soundly punished both by Colonel Burnham's detachment and the force under General Brooks. The loss of the 6th Corps was considerable here in killed, wounded and missing. Fortifications had been erected by the rebs on what is called Salem Heights. The troops were massed during the night at this point, and the 6th Army Corps recrossed the river without much molestation or injury. Suffice it to say, that since recrossing we have all enjoyed a remarkable degree of easy breathing and free perspiration.



"I will give you a list of casualties of the 5th Wisconsin which, was small considering what was undergone. Officers killed, 3; viz., Captain Strong, Company 'G'; Captain J. J. Turner, Company 'H'; Lieutenant Robinson Company 'H'; enlisted men killed, 28; officers wounded, 9; enlisted men wounded, 120; missing, 10; the officers were killed and wounded in the charge and most of the men. Appended is a list of Company 'F' killed and wounded: Corporal Volney B. Gee, wounded, right arm broken; Corporal George Clock, in hand, slightly; private Morris D. Baker, in shoulder, severely; private Francis L. Ladue, in neck, severely; private Andrew J. Smith, in back; private John Ross, in heel, slightly; private William Welde, in leg, slightly; private William Ackert, killed. All these in the charge.

"The following men were injured on the 4th inst.: Sergeant Henry B. Lowe, leg broken above the knee, since amputated; Corporal Angus Cameron, in leg, slightly; Corporal C. C. Brown, in hip, slightly; Corporal Richard M. Welch, in leg, slightly; private Joseph Bogue, in hand, slightly; privates Ferdinand Kussner, Leonard Sherman and Russel Brown, missing, supposed to be prisoners. This account to the friends at home may not be uninteresting.

"The following copy of an order from headquarters you will please insert that justice may be done the Light Division, late of the 6th Corps, Army of the Potomac:

"HEADQUARTERS, 6TH ARMY CORPS,

"In camp near White Oak Church, Va., May 11th, 1863.

"General Orders No. 21.

"In consequence of the discharge from service of the two-years and nine-months regiments, it becomes necessary to break up one of the brigade organizations of the Corp. The following assignments are therefore ordered: 43d New York, 61st Pennsylvania to report to Brigadier General Howe, and 31st New York, 6th Maine, 5th Wisconsin report to Brigadier General Brooks. General commanding the Corp regrets exceedingly the necessity which compels him to break up the 'Light Brigade'. Its service during recent operations entitles it to a permanent existence; its gallant leader, Colonel Burnham, to its permanent command, but the necessity of filling up the old brigades of the older divisions compels the assignment herein ordered. The General commanding thanks the officers and men of the Light Brigade for their faithful and distinguished services and assures them that although they cease to exist as a separate organization they have nevertheless a permanent place in the history of the Army of the Potomac.

"Captain Adam E. King, A. A. Gen., will report to General Brooks. The other officers of the brigade will report in person to these headquarters.

"By command of Major General Sedgwick,

(Signed)

"M. T. McMahon, A. A. Gen."

"The above order speaks for itself. It highly compliments the above organization in flattering terms, yet it seems to the officers of the 'Light Brigade' somewhat of a rebuke after having rendered such distinguished service to the country exclusive of the Army of the Potomac, not to be continued as a permanent organization. We must submit with the best grace to 'the powers that be' 'Propatria'.

"Your obedient servant,

"B. F. CRAM, Lieutenant, Company 'F', 5th Wis. Vols."

Secretary Engle—I would like to supplement the papers that have been read by an extract from General Longstreet's book "From Manassas to Appomattox", page 330, which I find in a paper written by Colonel Charles A. Clark of the 6th Maine, and read before the Iowa Commandery Military Order of the Loyal Legion, page 32, in which General Longstreet says:

"It was probably a mistake to draw McLaws away from his position at Maryes Hill where he and Ransom had successfully held against six or seven attacks of the Burnside battle, *with three brigades*. General Early was assigned to that position *with five brigades*. He was attacked by about one-fourth the number of McLaws assailants, the position was carried, and Early was driven off in confusion, loosing, besides a large number of prisoners, many pieces of artillery."

Colonel Clark continues:

"It was against this strong position and superior force that our small but determined numbers were about to be hurled. Half of our twin regiment, the 5th Wisconsin, were deployed along our front as skirmishers. The other half was drawn up in line of battle at our left. The 6th Maine, in line of battle, extended from a point a little to the left of the old Marye's mansion where the plank road





winds down the hill, over near the present location of the national cemetery. The other regiments of the brigade were placed for participation in the assault. We laid down behind a little crest which protected us from the enemy's fire, and waited for the order of attack to be given. Between us and the base of the heights was the 'slaughter pen', made ghastly by the losses of the Union Army in Burnside's disastrous battle. Just beyond this was the famous old stone wall which the Confederates had converted into a strong rifle pit. Beyond the stone wall and further up the heights was another line of rifle pits, while at the top were the enemy's strongest works, consisting of redoubts and earth works upon which engineering skill had been lavished.

"It was eleven o'clock before we received the order to charge. Lieutenant Colonel Harris, who commanded the regiment, had previously made all the men uncap their guns and had given strict orders against firing a shot until the entrenchments at the top of the heights were reached. The men rushed forward at double quick, with arms apart. When the order came I was lying upon a blanket with Major Haycock. We sprang to our feet, shook hands, each cried 'God bless you', and went forward with our line of battle. The instant we reached the crest in front of us Haycock was shot down and killed. I saw him fall before the warmth of his pressure had left my hand, or his words had died out from my ears. Across the 'slaughter pen' we went with a terrific yell. Artillery and musketry poured a fire upon us which seemed to make the whole atmosphere hot and lurid. Men fell on every hand. As we reached the stone wall my old schoolmate, Captain Gray of Company 'A', was shot and instantly killed. Further to the left Captain Young of Company 'G', also went down to rise no more. There was a hand to hand fight at this point of short duration, and the enemy was routed. It is not true that bayonets were never crossed during the war. They were used at the stone wall by our men, and after the battle it was found, by actual count, that forty of the enemy had been bayoneted here.

"We pushed on with a shout of triumph, and carried the rifle pits higher up, which now swarmed with the enemy. Here I saw Captain Ballinger, of Company 'C', fall headlong, with a bullet through his brain. His curly head seemed to glisten with a hallow of glory as we rushed past him, still pushing forward to the enemy's last entrenchments. We had now reached a point where the artillery in the works above us could not be depressed sufficiently to sweep through our ranks with grape and shrapnel, and our losses seemed perceptibly smaller from this point forward. Without firing a shot our line pushed ahead with a wild and indistinguishable frenzy, and swarmed over the last and strongest redoubts and fortifications at the summit, capturing seven guns of the celebrated Washington Artillery, and numerous prisoners who fought with a frenzy equal to our own, and with a grim determination to hold their position to the last. I do not think the 6th Maine fired a single musket until we were inside the enemy's last line of works. Our success was glorious, but we had paid for it dearly."

Secretary Engle—Mr. Chairman: Since the invention of gunpowder, I believe there has never been a charge made by any troops in any war which exceeded in daring and perseverance that made by the 5th Wisconsin, 6th Maine and 31st New York in the storming of Maryes Heights, and you and this association, as well as myself, must feel that it is due to the comrades of the 5th Wisconsin that the people of the State of Wisconsin should, in a suitable manner, place upon the field of Maryes Heights, a monument in granite and bronze that shall forever perpetuate the valor and soldierly qualities exhibited by the Wisconsin soldiers in that affair, and sir, in pursuance of and with the hope that the State of Wisconsin, or some of its citizens may be induced to furnish such a monument, I would offer to you the following memorial, and move its adoption by this association:

"TO THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF WISCONSIN:

"We, the surviving members of the 5th Wisconsin Infantry, met in our fifteenth annual reunion, desire to represent to you, that we were participants in the great war, and that on the 3d day of May, 1863, an exploit was performed in the storming of Maryes Heights, in Fredericksburg, Va., which was not excelled in bravery, sacrifice, and immediate success by any exploit of American arms, for on that day, three regiments, the 5th Wisconsin, 6th Maine and 31st New York, (the same being a detail from the Light Division of the 6th Army Corps) acting as the storming party, charged the said heights, which were fortified with great skill, and held by a greatly superior number of men.

"In this charge, which occupied but six minutes of time from its beginning to its end, these regiments captured the heights and the stone wall at its base, driving





or capturing all its defenders, and taking possession by assault of the 8th Louisiana Confederate Artillery there on duty.

"The defense was gallant but unsuccessful. The total exploit was a splendid exhibit on both sides of American volunteer soldiiership.

"The 5th Wisconsin could not have had over 530 officers and men in line during this charge, and they sustained a loss of 193 officers and men in executing the charge, which is equal to 36½ per cent. of the whole number of men engaged in it.

"That the valor and courage of the men from Wisconsin, as displayed in this charge may be perpetuated, we appeal to you for such subscription of money as will place a suitable monument and markers upon the ground covered by this charge, to the end that the signal services rendered by the Wisconsin troops in this charge of the Light Division, may be recognized and honored by those now living, and by the generations that shall follow us."

Chairman Bean—Comrades, we shall never tire of hearing of the assault upon Marye's Heights under the leadership of our gallant Allen. You will recall the fact that a similar assault in December, 1862, by the Irish brigade under the command of General Francis Meagher, was made, and that it failed. The losses suffered in the assault of May 3, 1863, by our regiment and the 6th Maine was 35 per cent. killed and wounded, which was just about equal to the losses of the "Light Brigade" in the Crimean war, so celebrated in song and story. You have heard the memorial as read by Comrade Engle. What is your pleasure?

Comrade O. H. Pierce—Mr. Chairman, I move you that the memorial, as read, be adopted unanimously, and that it, together with the papers of Comrades Enert and Cram, be published in the report of this meeting.

Upon the question being put, it was unanimously adopted.

(NOTE: The following report of the storming of Maryes Heights, made by Colonel Allen on May 7, 1863, of the part taken by the 5th Wisconsin, was discovered by Colonel Chas. A. Clark during the last few months among the papers of General Burnham. The report, up to this time, has never been published anywhere. Evidently General Burnham mislaid the report and it was never forwarded to division headquarters, and therefore has never appeared in the reports of the Adjutant General of the army, where it should have had its place. It will be noted that the losses as reported by Colonel Allen in the storming of Marye's Heights do not exactly agree with the returns as made by the War Department, which gives the losses of those killed and mortally wounded as 49 instead of 30. It is certain that there was not over 850 men belonging to the 5th Wisconsin and 6th Maine who took part in the storming of Maryes Heights. The 5th Wisconsin and the 6th Maine, on the 28th day of April, had reported, present for duty, 901 officers and enlisted men, according to the regimental report for that day. From this number is to be deducted all the details for cooks, hospital attendants, etc., who would not be on the firing line; and they certainly must have been considerably in excess of 25 to each regiment. But assuming that 850 men of these two regiments did take part in the storming of Maryes Heights, of this number 310 were killed or wounded, making 36½ per cent. of the men taking part in this charge, either killed or wounded; the 5th Wisconsin suffering a heavier loss than did the 6th Maine. A citizen clerk, of the name of Munday, who was on duty at the 6th Army Corps headquarters, took time upon this charge from Stafford's Heights on the east side of the Rappahannock river, and he made the length of time, from start to finish, 6 minutes. James L. Parkinson, a member of Company "B", who was down near Hazel Run, just back of the town, quite a little to the left of the storming party, made the time 6 minutes, 15 seconds.)

"HEADQUARTERS, 5TH WISCONSIN VOLUNTEERS, May 7, 1863.

"COLONEL BURNHAM,

"Commanding Light Division:

"Sir—I have the honor to report the part taken in the various engagements of this regiment since the 28th ult.

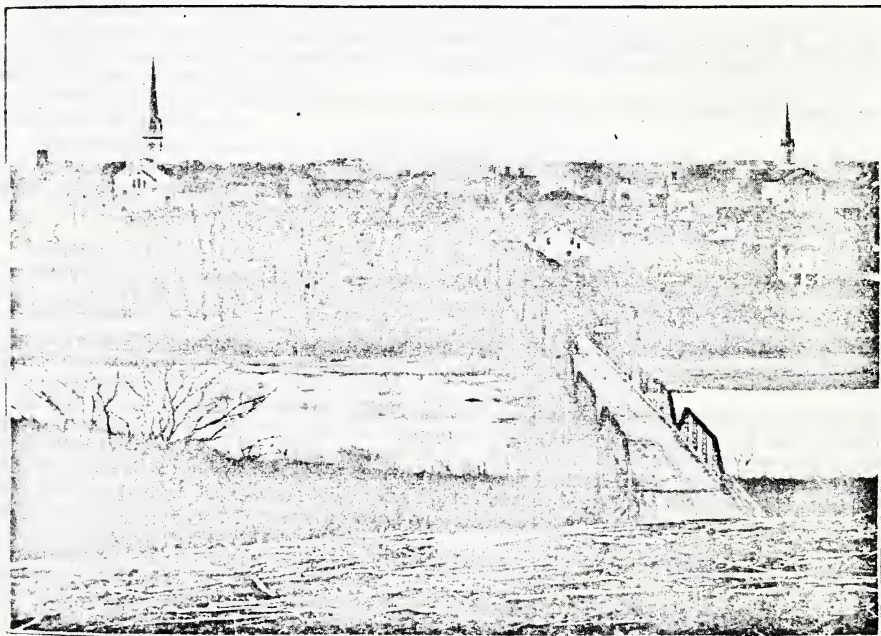
"This regiment took part with the whole of the Light Division in carrying the pontoons on the night of the 28th—crossed the river on the 30th—engaged in the skirmish on the 2d of May, where First Lieutenant John McMurtrey was killed and two or three men wounded. On Sunday, the 3d inst., the heights of Fredericksburg were stormed. The right wing of the 5th Wisconsin Volunteers, commanded by myself and assisted by Major Wheeler, was deployed as skirmishers, covering the front of the 6th Maine and 31st New York Volunteers, and 50 paces in advance: left wing, under command of Lieutenant Colonel Catlin, formed part of the third



line 50 paces in rear of the 31st New York. My orders were to advance as soon as fire was opened by the rebels on our column moving up on the right. The rebels holding their fire too long we made a slight demonstration, causing the rebels to open fire and the line of skirmishers advanced at a double quick, halted not until they had reached and carried the entire rebel works. Upon arriving at the summit I was met by Lieutenant Brown, commanding that portion of the works and battery, who surrendered himself and command as prisoners.

"The losses have been already reported, amounting to 3 officers killed and 7 wounded; total loss, 30 killed and 106 wounded.

"The regiment served with the Light Division during the next day until in the P. M., when the 5th Wisconsin and the 61st Pennsylvania, placed under my command, was ordered to the right with orders to support General Brooks. Here we lost 1 killed and 16 wounded. Not being able to find any officer to whom to report I followed the general movement to Bank's ford, which place we finally reached and reported to General Newton. I was then ordered to place my men in



VIEW OF FREDERICKSBURG

From Stafford's Heights on the east side of Rappahannock River; Maryes House faintly seen in the left upper corner.

the rifle pits above the ford, but with no orders how long I was to remain and hold them. On hearing orders given to all the other divisions of the corps to recross the river as rapidly as possible, I went myself to General Sedgwick to receive orders for my command, and by his direction I crossed the river and joined the remainder of the division on the A. M. of the 6th.

"In regard to the behavior of the troops during the whole campaign too much praise can not be awarded them, and it would be unjust to say that one man did better than another, as all did their duty so well.

"The regiment laments the loss of Captain Strong, Captain Turner, First Lieutenant McMurtrey and Second Lieutenant Robinson, four of its bravest and best officers and on whose characters as soldiers rests no stain.

"Particular commendation is due to the following named persons: Corporal C. T. Packard, who pursued and captured two of the rebels; Corporal Stevens and







private J. B. Russell, of Company 'E', who volunteered for skirmishers after the carrying of the heights; Corporal J. F. Elliott, and Corporal O. H. Beal, of Company 'G', who insisted on following the rebels after being wounded; Corporal V. B. Gee, Chas. O. Brown and privates John Ross and Alexander Johnston, of Company 'F', all wounded at the heights, but remained with the regiment during the whole time.

"Lieutenant Colonel Catlin, Major Wheeler, staff and company officers, without an exception, performed their duty nobly.

"I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

"T. S. ALLEN, Colonel Commanding.

"5th Wisconsin Volunteers."

For paper "Storming Maryes Heights", see last paper of this report preceding roster.

General Amasa Cobb—For fear I should forget to bring the matter up at a later time, I desire to interrupt the proceedings for a moment to move you, sir, that a paper prepared by Comrade J. S. Anderson on the Battle of Rappahannock Station, and read by him before the Western Society of the Army of the Potomac, be published in connection with the report of this meeting.

The motion of General Cobb was unanimously adopted by the association.

Chairman Bean—It is now drawing close to the time when we should probably adjourn this meeting to a later hour in the day that the comrades may enjoy their lunch. What is your pleasure?

It was moved and carried that we adjourn to meet at this place at half past two o'clock in the afternoon.

(The afternoon session was taken up in visiting between comrades, and whatever little talks may have been made we have found it necessary to omit from this report of proceedings, and is followed by report of July 24.)

JULY 24, 1901, 10 o'clock A. M.

Meeting called to order, Captain I. M. Bean, chairman.

Comrades, I have purposely refrained from calling the meeting to order until this time for the reason that it seemed to me that there was perhaps as much pleasure and profit in the little genial, private, individual intercourse that was being had, as in any other way. We determined, however, to meet again today, and it is better now that the meeting be called to order, and if there is any business to be transacted, that we proceed to do it.

It has been suggested that it might be well to have a vice-president representing each company in the regiment. Perhaps that is not a bad idea. I am a member of the Western Society of the Army of the Potomac, and they observe a similar rule; they have a vice-president representing each corps of the Army of the Potomac; and, perhaps, imitating them on a small scale, it might not be a bad idea to elect a vice-president representing each company of our regiment. I simply throw off this suggestion for your consideration.

On motion of Comrade Ben. Smith, vice-presidents were nominated and elected from each company, as follows:

Company "A", Judge Anderson.

Company "B", O. H. Pierce.

Company "C", J. C. Iverson.

Company "D", Ben. Smith.

Company "E", Captain Nevitt.

Company "F", Miles Butterfield.

Company "G", W. H. Kees.

Company "H", Abram Denny.

Company "I", Captain Jacob Cook.

Company "K", Henry Rohrer.

Band, George Winn.

Chairman Bean—What is your further pleasure?

Comrade Ben. Smith—We should have a permanent badge for the 5th Wisconsin, and I move that the chair appoint three members to procure a badge, something of metal, bronze, or something of that kind.

Chairman Bean—If there are no remarks on this question you who favor the motion of Comrade Smith say aye.

Motion carried.

Chairman Bean—Comrades Holbrook, Smith and Engle are appointed to that committee.

Chairman Bean—If you will submit to the shocking informality of the chair's telling a story of which he was reminded when our eloquent comrade of the new organization spoke yesterday, I will do so. Let us pass from the grave to the gay. Comrade Perry in speaking enthusiastically, as he did, of General Phil. Sheridan yesterday, lauded him, as we remember, to the skies, as he deserved to be; and among other things, he said "that whatever Sheridan said, whether true or not.



every man believed". That reminded me of the story. I knew General Sheridan quite well. He was stationed in Chicago in the early seventies, I don't know but considerably later; I guess up to '80. I met him several times. On one occasion I attended a banquet given to him by the Loyal Legion in Chicago in celebration of his birthday. My recollection is it was his fifty-fourth or fifty-fifth birthday. There were many speeches; it was a magnificent affair. I remember that the district attorney made a powerful response to a toast; and Martin Russell, editor of the Chicago Times at that time, read a delightful paper, comparing the old Order of Cincinnati with the new patriotic Order of the Loyal Legion, showing the difference in the pomp and ceremony of those days compared to the plain proceedings of these days; and a fellow from the navy read a beautiful poem. Well, I enjoyed it very much, and after the formal proceedings were over, to my overwhelming embarrassment, the commander remarked that I was there and called on me, and I said something in return; and after that was over "Little Phil", as we all used to call him, came around with General Forsythe and in a very gentle and beautiful way invited me to go up to his house. Sheridan was a very singular man in appearance; he was of short stature, very heavy, with a sort of German mustache coming out here (indicating), but in his voice and manner of speech he was as gentle as a girl. He invited me up to his house, not very late, about eleven o'clock, and we went up there with two or three other gentlemen, and we stayed until a late hour, and he told us a great many things, all about the last dying days of the Confederacy, and among other things he told this story: Old Captain Shears, a jolly old Irishman from the north of Ireland lived near North Lake, and Sheridan was very fond of fishing; and it was Sheridan's custom at the time he was stationed in Chicago, for quite a number of years, to go out to North Lake on fishing excursions. Sheridan said that early one morning he was returning from his fishing, and walking along on the road he was attracted by a farmer who was plowing. He stopped and looked at him, and was interested to see how beautifully and gracefully the sward would turn over, and he waited for the return trip of the farmer and then engaged him in conversation. Sheridan was a man of very short stature: I should not think he was over five feet five inches high, perhaps not over five feet four; he was dressed in his fishing regalia, which made him look all the funnier that morning, and he engaged the farmer in conversation and asked him about his crops, and told him how interested he was in seeing him plow, and spoke of the horses attached to the plow, "nice looking horses", etc., and finally Sheridan courteously asked the farmer if he wouldn't have a drink, which invitation was accepted with alacrity. The general's new horny-handed friend then became more communicative and discoursed freely about his farm, and finally said, "By the way, what is your name?" "Why," the general replied, "my name is Sheridan." "Sheridan is it? Why, that is the name of one of our great generals in the army." "Well, yes," said Little Phil. "I am General Sheridan. I am Philip Sheridan!" The farmer eyed him very suspiciously and assumed almost at once a hostile attitude, a very unbelieving attitude at any rate, and they talked a little longer, and finally they repeated the ceremony and pledged each other's health a second time. The farmer, perhaps realizing it was his last chance, took a good drink, and after a few more words Sheridan walked on down the road, and he said he had gone about a hundred yards when he was hailed by the farmer, who shouted, "Hello, you there, stranger; them drinks that you gave me were mighty good, but when you tell me you are General Philip Sheridan I think you are the damdest liar in North America." (Laughter.)

Chairman Bean—Comrades, you who were present with the 5th Wisconsin from the very outset at Camp Randall and at Kalorama Heights will remember that a lad was seen riding around and taking a good deal of interest in the regiment, and we knew he was the son of a distinguished officer, an officer who commanded our brigade. Now, years have rolled by and that lad is not only a matured man, but one who has attained, very justly and fairly, a distinguished name; he is here present in the person of General Charles King, and I take great pleasure in introducing him. (Applause.)

General King—Mr. President, and old comrades of the Fifth: When your new president told me, a few weeks ago, you were to have a reunion about this time, although duty, that had crowded on me of late, had taken me away from Milwaukee a great deal, it was my purpose, if possible, so to arrange these matters that I would not be away at the time of this meeting for I had more than one reason for wanting to look into your faces again, but not until last evening did I know that you were actually in session here yesterday. The moment the information came to me I lost no time in making tracks for this building, but you had already adjourned. Meeting





today one of your old captains, one of my old comrades, on the street, I asked him if you were in session, and he said he thought not or he should be here, and that accounts for my appearance at so late an hour. Only ten minutes before my coming did I receive a message that you were here in session, and that decided my next move, despite the fact that I am again under orders, this time domestic; my household commander has ordered me to be there with my daughters and boy to take them on, and they are waiting for me to take them on a promised trip, and go I must, but I can not until I have had this opportunity of saying a word of welcome to you in behalf of your first brigade commander, who, more perhaps than you ever dreamed of, felt a great interest in the old 5th Wisconsin after you came under his command at Kalorama, and this interest in the old regiment never waned for a moment. I think one of the saddest hours that he knew during his command in the Army of the Potomac was when, in order to build up a brigade for the soldier who made the magnificent record in the war of the rebellion, the 5th was taken from the old command and transferred to that of General Hancock. We all mourned it at headquarters, and I think there was no one who took it more to heart than I did. But only a short time after your transfer to that brigade, and a very short time after your baptism of fire, which so many of you remember, I was sent by the president from the front to the military academy, and I saw little or nothing of the great volunteer army from that time until the close of the war, but my earliest recollections have remained undimmed through long years of service with the regular army, with the state troops, with our later volunteers and service in the distant Philippines, where we had another volunteer army who were well worthy to be the sons of such men as you proved yourselves to be in the early sixties; and it seems to me that from start to finish the most thoroughly fixed in my mind of the volunteers of the old days is the line of battle of the 5th Wisconsin, almost perfectly uniform, so thoroughly drilled, and even in those early days, so well disciplined that, setting aside the little episode of Luinsville, and you in your first serious and severe fight at Williamsburg made your great record and received so high a compliment from that distinguished soldier, General Hancock, I swore by the 5th; it seemed to me I knew it far better than the other regiments in the old brigade, and I believe from the bottom of my heart that such success as I have had in my profession, I owe in no small measure to the fact that the very earliest military association I ever knew in sight of a hostile fight was with you of the old 5th Regiment, and I am delighted with the opportunity of meeting you again today. (Applause.)

Comrade Perry, being called upon, spoke as follows:

"Mr. President: It had not been my purpose to take part in any of the discussions or remarks made during this reunion. I came here with the intention of remaining a silent listener throughout these proceedings, but I expected to meet Lieutenant Colonel J. M. Bull at this time and place, who was advertised to deliver an address on the subject of the reorganization of the 5th Wisconsin Regiment. Remembering well the soldierly qualities and oratorical powers of Colonel Bull, I knew that the subject would be ably handled and rendered full of interest by him. I very much regret his absence at this time.

"As I cast my eye around the room I miss that grand old soldier, Colonel Thomas S. Allen. Good reasons, no doubt, have prevented his attendance here today. Let us hope, however, that despite his many years, ill health has not kept him away.

"It was not my good fortune and pleasure to belong to the 5th Regiment while commanded by that eminent patriot, brave soldier and distinguished jurist, Colonel Amasa Cobb, who sits in our midst at this moment; but I have known him by sight since the winter of 1865, when he visited our regiment while in camp in front of Petersburg, and through his able opinions delivered while sitting on the Supreme Court bench of the State of Nebraska, I have known of him as an able, just and honorable judge.

"Nothing could give me more pleasure than to listen, as I have done, to the details and particulars—given by those present belonging to what we sometimes call the 'old regiment'—of the many hardships and privations endured, the long marches made, the skirmishes and battles engaged in by the 'old regiment.'

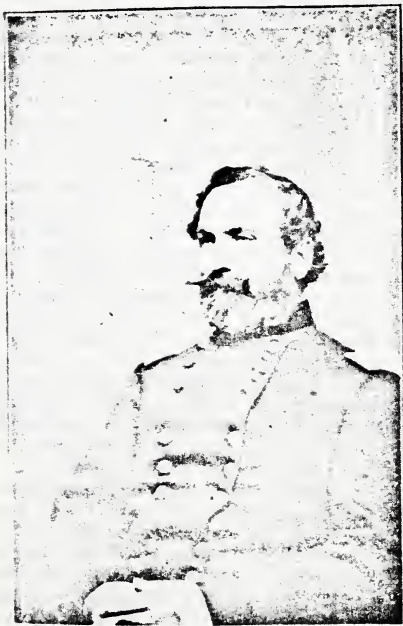
"I have enjoyed these recitals, coming, as they do from you, the participants in all these campaigns, in which the so-called 'old regiment' took part; I believe that you and I belonged to one of the bravest and best regiments that ever belonged to any army. Its history will bear me out in the assertion that no regiment of men rendered its country better service, or performed its duties more faithfully. Perhaps there are those who would call us 'egotistical' when we boast of the part we





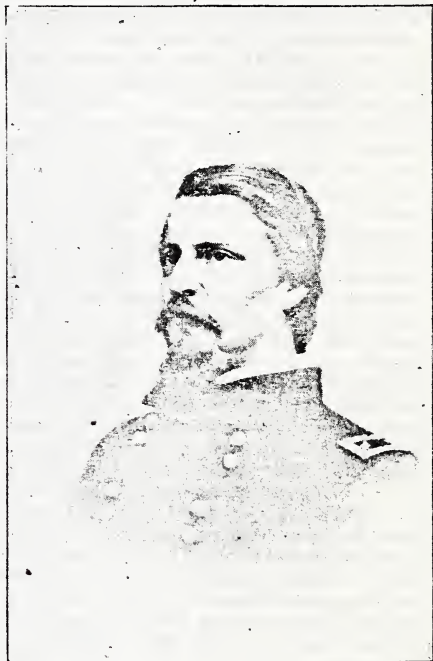
took in the suppression of the rebellion, and if such be the case, I shall be proud to be numbered among the egotists. Not only am I proud of the record made by our regiment during my short connection with it, but I am proud of that part of its history made during the first three years of its existence. We do not have to depend on our own recollections merely for this history, because the reports of our good conduct during the war have become a part of the record of the nation.

"I listened to the address of Colonel Cobb at the meeting of our regimental survivors in this city at the national grand encampment of the G. A. R. some years ago, when he told of his experience at Washington; how his presence brought an enthusiastic remark from James G. Blaine that forcibly reminded him that the illustrious secretary of state remembered the gallantry of the 5th Wisconsin Regiment, at the sight of Colonel Cobb.



MAJOR GENERAL JOHN SEDGWICK.

"Uncle John"—of loving memory.



BRIG. GENERAL WINFIELD S. HANCOCK.

We were in the only brigade he ever commanded.

"In the summer of 1864, in my own town, I enlisted in a company then being recruited for the 42d Wisconsin Regiment. About the 1st of September, 1864, we entered Camp Randall at Madison. We drew our clothes and rations, and scarcely remained there long enough to learn how to 'right face' when Colonel Allen appeared upon the scene; he was then fresh from the seat of war, he was every inch a soldier, his bearing was military and his words were like those of one in command.

"Our company was drawn up in two ranks, then Colonel Allen stepped to the front of us and addressed us, mostly, I should say, on the subject we are discussing here today, *i. e.* 'The 5th Wisconsin Regiment and its History'. In a plain, straightforward and earnest manner he told us briefly of the fighting qualities of the regiment in the past, of its gallant conduct in battle, and how it had become depleted in numbers and that for the purpose of filling its thinned ranks, he had returned to the State whence it came; he gave us plainly to understand that he was looking for men who would not tarnish the good name already won by the 5th, but who would, at the peril of their lives, continue that glorious record.



"I shall not attempt to repeat his exact words, nor give in full that speech, but suffice it to say, that when our officers informed us that as to whether we should join the 42d or the 5th Regiment, the rank and file must decide, the colonel's speech showed its effect. We were informed then and there that whoever preferred to join the 5th Regiment and go immediately to the front, where much fighting had been done and much more was expected to be done, should take two steps to the front. Every man took the two steps forward and we were off for the front to join the 5th Regiment within a week. I think this was never a source of regret to any member of Company 'G', 5th Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, reorganization. To be sure it was a step that brought us in immediate contact with the sad realities of war, for scarcely had we been absent from home a month before we came in contact with that guerrilla chieftain, Colonel J. S. Mosby.

"I may say that we did not go directly to the remnants of the old regiment then resting on their laurels won at the battle of Winchester. We drew our arms within sight of the capital of the nation and a battalion commanded by Captain Brahmen, went to Fairfax Court House, Va., there to guard a mule train engaged in hauling wood; from here we returned to Washington and thence by way of Harper's Ferry to Martinsburg and thence to Winchester. Here we joined the remnant of the old regiment, consolidated into 'A', 'B' and 'C' companies. This was after General Sheridan's famous ride from Winchester to Cedar Creek, where his presence turned rout into victory, and freed Shenandoah Valley from future raids by rebel forces; here, for the first time, we saw that brave and dashing officer, Phil. Sheridan, better known then among our boys as 'Little Phil'. He was the idol of his army and every soldier under him knew, or at least thought he knew, that nothing on earth could defeat them with Sheridan in command. If ever an army of men idolized and worshiped a commander, this army at this time worshiped and idolized General Sheridan. New recruits did not have to wait to be lead into battle by this brave and brilliant officer to gain perfect confidence in him, because the very atmosphere was so filled with this spirit of admiration that no one could live in it without being thoroughly impregnated with the same spirit, the same feeling, and the same thought. However, it was not long before our corps was taken from Shenandoah Valley back to Washington, thence down the Potomac on transports, and up the James to City Point, where it was disembarked and moved to the left into the breastworks, extending from a point nearly south of Petersburg nearly or about to Hatcher's Run. Here we remained in winter quarters until the opening of the campaign of 1865, except that seemingly for diversion, now and then, we were marched off in stormy, bad weather to Hatcher's Run or some other point.

"When I listen to some of the comrades here talking of 'Maryes Heights', the 'slaughter pen' and other points of historical interest, where you shed some of your best blood and lost some of your bravest men, my mind drifts back to the experience of the new regiment on skirmish line, on picket duty and in line of battle. Our second trip to Hatcher's Run was under very unfavorable circumstances; we left our winter quarters in the very early days of February, 1865, and marched to the left several miles and did not return to camp for about four days. The weather was extremely unfavorable. It rained some, it sleeted, and just enough snow fell to whiten old mother earth for a few hours.

"Farther to our left we could hear, now and then, a volley of musketry and considerable desultory firing, but no cannonading. Towards the end of the second day we were marched off on double quick towards Hatcher's Run, and as we began to near the place of battle we noticed little piles or heaps of something, in the neighborhood of five or six feet in length and about the width of a man, covered over with a blanket or poncho and this white with snow; now and then some inquisitive character would step out of the ranks just far enough and long enough to lift the covering to behold the form of one whose life had been given in defense of his country's flag. These were times that tried men's souls. Soon we met the wounded fresh from the front, carried, perhaps, on a stretcher, or making their way to a surgeon with the aid and assistance of a comrade; not a word of discouragement fell from their lips; whenever they answered an inquiry as to how the battle was going at the front, it was always to the effect that 'all was well'; but we soon learned the real facts. A part of the 5th corps had broken and many of its number were facing to the rear, going pellmell from the enemy. Talk about stampedes of herds of buffalo; they are not to be compared with a stampede of frightened men; however, this did not last long as night closed without much advantage to the enemy. Here our company lost its first man by an enemy's bullet.

"Corporal Tryon was shot through the intestines and lingered along until he died on the 31st day of May following from the effects of his wounds.







"Judge Anderson's remarks about reading in a newspaper of the charge upon the lines around Petersburg, in the spring of '65, and their capture, and the part that was taken by the reorganized 5th Wisconsin in that battle, calls to my mind that memorable charge. The latter part of March it somehow became understood among the rank and file that the spring campaign would begin with an attack on the rebel lines around Petersburg and Richmond, and the nearer the time approached, the more fully we became convinced that our regiment would take a position in the front line of battle in this attack. On the afternoon of the 1st of April we got orders to pack everything, excepting tents, which were to be left standing until after dark. Every man was ordered to fasten his bayonet sheath, canteen and everything else that might make a noise; silence was commanded and every man obeyed. That evening our several companies were marched out upon the regimental campus and there quietly, but sternly, orders were given for every man to follow his file leader and maintain perfect silence. We marched several miles to the left, then passed 'lookout post' near Fort Fisher. Down by the left of the fort and through our main lines of works we marched and then halted.

"The 37th Massachusetts, with their repeating rifles, passed close by us on the right almost as noiseless as the coming of frost. But a few minutes had elapsed before they reached the picket line between the main works of the rebels and our own. These lines were considerably curved and run in a zigzagging way at least some distance east and west from the point where we were to attack the enemy's lines. Very soon the 37th Massachusetts engaged the rebel line with just enough picket and skirmish firing to conceal our movements and give us an opportunity to form in line of battle and lie down immediately in rear and very near our skirmishers. All this was done promptly, quickly and in good order. Every regiment of our brigade formed in line of battle, just in our rear. When thus formed, the command ran along the picket line to cease firing, and very soon matters settled down to their usual quietness and the rebel and union pickets began to talk back and forth, inviting one another to have a little coffee and hardtack, and make various suggestions that the occasion seemed to draw out. While we were forming and during this picket fire we were subject to a heavy cross fire which caused us the loss of many men. Captain Doty was killed, Lieutenant R. D. Squires of my company, was severely wounded and many others, whose names I do not now recall, were at this time either killed or wounded. There was nothing for us to do but lie quietly for some hours until the hour before the break of day, when the darkness of night appeared the most dense, and day was soon to break. So far as my experience goes, I would say the most trying ordeal that a soldier passes through, is to lie down on the ground and remain quiet under an enemy's fire and listen to the whistling of the bullets and the cries and groans of his wounded comrades. It is a time when man's mind is actively engaged in thoughts of the past and future. Just before the break of day, heavy cannon in Fort Fisher at our right and rear belched forth the order to advance, and every officer seemed to know what it meant, instantly jumped to his feet and shouted 'FORWARD' at the top of his voice. We sprang to our feet, we rushed forward, we ran over, through and around lines of abatis, we stumbled over logs and across ditches, captured pickets, and finally reached the deep, wide ditch along and in the immediate front of the main line of rebel works. It seems to me now that this ditch was from eight to ten feet wide and at least six feet deep below the original surface of the earth. The earth taken from this ditch had been thrown back to the rebel side and was used in building an earthworks sloping a little backward from the end of this ditch and rising perhaps six feet above it thus making it necessary to aid and assist one another in getting a foot hold: above this ditch and on the face of this earthwork, planted here and there along these earthworks, had been rebel cannon; just back of the works were the winter quarters of the Confederates who guarded the works. The whole bent of our minds was to once reach the inside of this works, and while all was excitement we aided and assisted one another in getting out of the ditch and in the rebel breastworks just as rapidly as possible. Then came a short contest to gain the inside of the works, then a rush for the little doors of these winter quarters and then the chasing of the foe a short distance and the charge was over. It was a short, sharp, desperate struggle that cost us many lives, much bloodshed, but resulting in much good. During the charge, commencing in the darkness and ending soon after daylight, we became disorganized, badly mixed, and it was some time before the several regiments and companies were reformed and in place.

"After the reforming of our ranks we moved to the left, the rebels dispersing almost before we reached their sight. In the afternoon we again turned our faces toward the city of Petersburg; night came on—we camped on the battlefield. Dur-



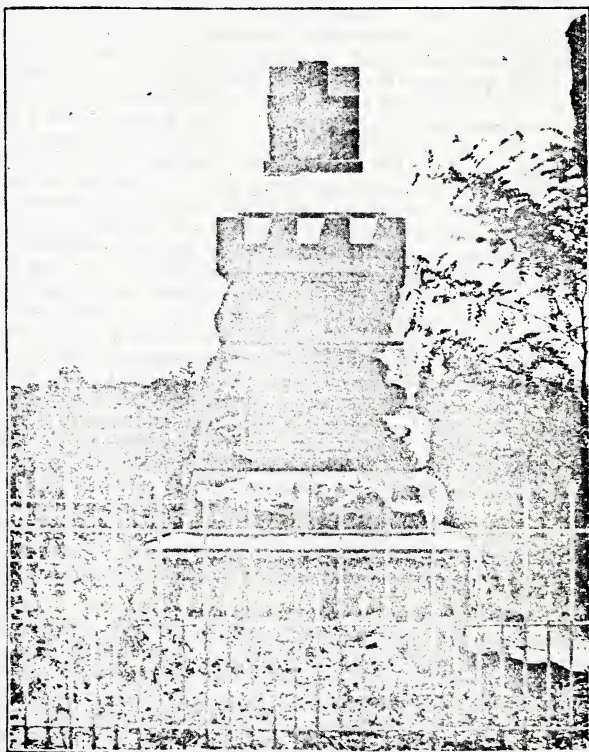
ing the night our pickets could hear a rumbling and rattling within the rebel lines, clearly indicating that they were on the move. The following morning we were up before the light of day and ready to march at a moment's notice. It was soon discovered that during the night, Petersburg had been evacuated. It was a glorious morning—the sun rose bright and clear—the atmosphere was balmy and full of perfumes of flowers and blooming fruit trees. While waiting, apparently for something to turn up, and perhaps for orders from headquarters, our division and other brass bands, played patriotic pieces that seemed to touch every fiber of our patriotic natures. While our ranks had been somewhat thinned by the bloody work of the preceding day, still the victory had been so glorious and our success so great, that general rejoicing seemed to be the order of the hour. We wondered what would be the next move. Scarcely had wonderment commenced when regiment after regiment, following close after one another, took up the line of march in pursuit of our retiring foe. Every day, yea, every hour, brought fresh news, new excitement, and additional evidence that we were in the midst of *war*. Now and then desultory firing, and again musketry firing by volley and sometimes the booming of cannon, reminded us that the sun might not set before many others would fall in battle. Sometimes we rested nights for a short time only, while at others, we accompanied the wagon train along narrow, muddy roads, through dense forests, catching now and then a short nap when there was a pause in the movement of the wagon train. In the forenoon of April 6th, we were urged to increase our speed somewhat, and to hasten our foot step, until shortly after the dinner hour we began to hear the musketry in the distance, and our officers began to hurry us forward as though some matters of importance demanded our immediate presence at the front. Presently, in our haste, we reached the banks of a small running stream, too large, however, and with banks too steep to be crossed without ascending the stream nearly a mile. As we emerged from the surrounding hills into this creek valley, a little way across, at our left and along a ridge, we could see a long line of white wagon covers and a little nearer, along the slope and on the brow of the ridge was an equally long line—not of wagon covers—but of men dressed in grey; while but a short distance from us toward the line of grey was the Union cavalry in blue, attacking and holding at bay the rear of Lee's army then engaged in guarding his wagon train, until such time as our infantry should be able to cross the creek and form a line of battle. As soon as we reached the bridge we passed over Sailor's Creek and down the opposite bank, and when opposite a point where we first marched into the little valley, we filed right until we reached the banks of the small stream near the foot of the ridge and along which the enemy had made a stand to protect their wagon train.

"Just before reaching the banks of the second creek we passed General Sheridan sitting on his horse which stood near a battery that was just unlimbering and getting in position on a rise of ground just at our right. I need not tell a man of the 6th Corps that this was the most encouraging sight that we could behold in the midst of battle. General Sheridan's presence had given inspiration to the old 6th and other corps on many well fought battle grounds and this last sight of him was no less inspiring on account of previous occasions of a similar kind. Quickly he turned in his saddle, taking his eye from the battery and seemingly fixing it upon us as we hurried along, and, with that spirit of enthusiasm possessed by him and so well known to us, observing the old 6th Corps badge, he shouted, 'Go in 6th Corps and give them hell and I will send the cavalry in their rear.' Hastily we formed in line of battle along the farther bank of the second creek and at the foot of the hill. At this time Company 'G' of the reorganized 5th was in command of that brave and valiant soldier, Captain Henry Curran. Colonel Allen shouted to the Captain to know whether or not Company 'G' could go on the skirmish line. Captain Curran, seemingly a little nettled at the way the colonel put his order, replied in emphatic terms, 'Company "G" can go where any other company can go.' No quicker said than done. 'G' Company, under command of Captain Henry Curran, went upon the skirmish line, first deploying by fours and then receiving further orders to further deploy. No time was lost in maneuvering, Captain Curran with his skirmish line advancing up a hill into the very teeth of the enemy and into the very jaws of death. I read in the official report of this battle that when the battle opened our regiment was within thirty yards of the enemy and, although I did not stop to make measurements, I am satisfied that we were at least that near when the first gun was fired by our skirmishers. It was my fortune to be the left-hand rear man of the left-hand four that deployed as skirmishers upon this occasion. On my right stood James Conlan, who was the father of some of my schoolmates, the friend of my childhood days, the comrade who never ceased to watch over and care for me until at my side he dropped in death, pierced through the heart by an enemy's





bullet. Stephen Smith in my front fell dead; while Louis Nelson, in front of Conlan, fell mortally wounded. On the top of this hill and between us and the enemy covered by our left flank was a small open field of about two or three acres, while our right flank upon reaching the top of the hill passed into a thick piece of timber. In order to do effective work the battery was obliged to shoot so low over our heads that the shells cut off the tops of trees, which fell among our men, and hence the battery was compelled soon to cease firing. The enemy was concealed in a ditch three or four feet in depth and several feet in width, running parallel with our skirmish line along the opposite side of this little field, and also behind rails and other material hastily thrown up on the other edge of the ditch. Scarcely had our skirmish line become engaged with the enemy along the top of the hill when Colonel



MONUMENT TO MAJOR GENERAL JOHN SEDGWICK.

Erected by the members of his corps where he fell at Spottsylvania.

Allen shouted to the regiment, 'FORWARD, GUIDE RIGHT.' Onward they came, led by Colonel T. S. Allen, aided and assisted by Lieutenant Colonel Bull, Major Kempf and other officers. About this time Captain Curran, with drawn sword, rushed along the line shouting to his men, 'FORWARD, MEN,' and thus joined by the entire regiment we moved forward against the enemy. It was not a long struggle, but a desperate one; it was almost a hand to hand encounter. General Sheridan has mentioned it as one of the most desperate battles of the war, and says the reason why it is not given more prominence was because it occurred so near the close of the rebellion. Our company and regiment suffered, in killed and wounded, considerable, and our march was taken up the following day with the absence of many familiar forms and faces who were destined never to attend company roll call again. Both Colonel Allen and Lieutenant Colonel Bull, during this fight, were actively





and energetically engaged, as well as line and company officers in leading the men of our regiment against an enemy determined to yield nothing until forced to do so by the bravery and determination of their foe. If memory serves me right, at the close of the battle Captain Curran was the possessor of a horse captured from the enemy. General Sheridan made good his word, for the time was short after we passed him on the little hill by the battery and relieved the cavalry, until we found the cavalry in the enemy's rear, when the enemy waved the white flag. Firing ceased and nothing further of a warlike character was heard save the rejoicing of the unharmed victors and the cries and groans of the wounded comrades. We camped for the night on the battle field and early the following morning took up our line of march in pursuit of General Lee and the remnant of the Army of Northern Virginia. When I read now of the skirmishes and battles of the Spanish-American war with the opposing forces a mile or so apart and think of the close proximity of our men at the battle of Sailor's Creek, I can scarcely realize that we have actually been engaged in war with Spain. Such, however, is the fact, and those of us who participated in the most desperate human struggle known to history are pleased to know that the same spirit of American bravery that characterized the American soldier in all preceding wars plainly showed itself in this last war. Yes, I am proud of the record of the first three years of the 5th Wisconsin Regiment, although I took no part in it. I am proud of the last year's record which I helped to make, and I am pleased to note the spirit of you who served in the first three years, when you tell us that you watched with intense interest the career of our regiment after leaving it, and until the close of the war, and that you saw nothing in that record to dim the lustre and brilliancy of the first three years of our regiment which you helped to make. To my Masonic Brother, to my Brother Knight and to brothers of other organizations I am attached by obligations most binding, but to *you*, my comrades of the 5th Regiment, I am bound by ties more strong, more lasting, more binding than all the rest combined in one.

"I had not intended to consume so much of your time and had Lieutenant Colonel J. M. Bull been present at this meeting, or some other comrade who could or would speak for the reorganized 5th, I should have remained silent, but I could not separate from you at this meeting without saying a few words in behalf of the new organization to which I belonged. Let us fervently hope that this is not our last reunion, but that another year may bring to a similar meeting many comrades whose faces have not appeared here at this time. I shall go from this meeting feeling that those of our number who are absent have lost much by their failure to be here, believing it my duty to render what service I can in obtaining the attendance of many other comrades at future meetings.

"I thank you for your kind attention and promise you that I will endeavor to persuade some comrade of the reorganized 5th better able and better fitted than I am to address you upon this subject at your next meeting."

Chairman Bean—We are all convinced of one thing, and that is, if the additional companies which reinforced the old 5th Wisconsin are not represented here in large quantities, they are in excellent quality. The very graphic description that the comrade has given us of the last and closing scenes of the rebellion can not be surpassed; it is intensely interesting and it is illustrative of this fact, that there is no soldier like the American soldier, and that, after all, the saying, that in war results depend not alone upon discipline, but largely upon the character of "the man behind the gun", is full of meaning. Tell me, where is it probable that any European soldier, who served, for example, in the Franco-German war, can get up today and tell in as eloquent words the story of a great battle in the manner and style that we have just heard.

Comrade James S. Anderson—I entered the room while Comrade Perry was speaking. I was very much interested in what I heard of his remarks, and I want to say that we of the old 5th Wisconsin have always felt extremely proud of the manner in which the new men, who went down there, upheld the fame which the old men had won and established for the regiment. I remember at the time of the stormings of the works about Petersburg, and in the grand "round up" at Appomattox, that it was with a good deal of pride that I picked up the Milwaukee Sentinel and read how the 5th Wisconsin made the first breach in the line at Petersburg, near Richmond. I said, "Well, the old boys must have shown them how to do it and the young men learned well," and we all of us at home felt a good deal of pride in the way in which, what we called the "New 5th", had handled themselves on that occasion. And then when I had read how the boys had smashed into the lines at Sailor's





Creek and cut off our old friend Early, whose first acquaintance we made at Williamsburg, and landed him safe inside the 5th Wisconsin lines. I felt that the boys had at last completed the work we had so well begun. It was with a great deal of anxiety. I can assure you of the so-called "New 5th", that we of the old 5th watched the career of the new regiment, and we were just as proud of your achievements in those days as we ever were of our own. Once in a while I meet one of the "New 5th" and they, I think, feel well towards us; I think they feel pride in the regiment. It is a good deal the same pride that the British soldiers feel in the history of their regiments. There are many and many of the British soldiers, especially in the Highland regiments, who would rather lie down and die at any time than go backward, and it is simply and solely because they have become thoroughly saturated with two hundred or two hundred and fifty years of military history, and they have that regimental pride, and I think the new men that went into our regiment took over the spirit that the old men had.

This story telling is liable to be contagious. I was thinking of a little occurrence that happened after Gettysburg. You remember how we followed along in the rear of the rebels, and how we finally went around to the left and pushed through the gap in the night and came down on the other side of the South Mountain range from where Mr. Lee and his friends were going, and in order to make the connection, the wagons and the artillery were sent by the South Mountain pass, and some fellow had discovered a road over the mountains by which the troops could march with great ease and expedition. We got up in the mountains that night and we were marching through these forestclad hills among the precipices, and when the night shut down it was dark as pitch. To add to our discomfort the rain began to come down as it only can come down in that latitude in war time. We were compelled to lie right on the road side, and orders came to throw ourselves down and make ourselves as comfortable as we could until morning, so we unslung our knapsacks and sat down in the rain. Some of the companies up in the hills managed to stretch in among the trees in good shape, but we were very cold. Some of the boys got themselves comfortable fixed in various and sundry ways. I noticed a good sized camp fire, quite a good sized light, and there was a log in front of it, and on that log two or three figures were sitting with rubber ponchos over their heads, with their feet towards the fire and the rain thumping on the rubber blanket. The size of the fire kept it from being put out. I made up my mind that it was a pretty fair chance for some coffee, and in a hole I found some rain water and asked them if I could make some coffee there, and a voice from under one of the rubber ponchos said I could. Just as I got operations fairly going an artilleryman came up, and he was on the same errand; he didn't ask for leave, but he entered into a conversation with me, and opened out with a good deal of profanity and very sharp criticism on the gross and general thickheadedness of the officers and the capacity for blundering of the commanders, who would take a lot of men up into such a place as we were in, marching over precipices and over hills and over bluffs. I believe we lost two or three men who went off the path and stepping in the dark over some precipitious place, or something of the kind. This fellow went on with his criticism and profanity, cursing the generals, all and sundry. Finally one of the rubber ponchos went back and there was the face of General Russell and he called out, "Orderly, take that fellow out and tie him up by the thumbs until he cools off." Well, just then another raised and there was the face of our old commander, General Sedgwick, and he said, "Oh pooh, Russell! let the man alone, I don't know but what he is more than half right, anyway."

Comrade T. C. Ryan was called upon by Comrade Perry to make some remarks.

Comrade T. C. Ryan—I am afraid that anyone who has been listening to you old soldiers here will think it was a mistake asking me to make any remarks, for after what others have so interestingly told I can say little. But of course every soldier sees something that all others do not see, and I may have seen some things that some of you have not seen. I do not recall, on the spur of the moment, a great many things, but the comrade who was saying that while in the army he was picking up information on the side and writing articles for a newspaper, reminded me of a boy in Company "G" of the 5th Wisconsin. This boy was an Irishman, his name was Stewart J. Fay; he was a good scholar and a very good writer, and wrote articles for a local newspaper of Berlin, Wis., where our company was raised. He was the only man I ever knew who really enjoyed fighting, enjoyed war; enjoyed being under fire, liked it. There may have been others in the company that liked it, but he was the only man that ever gave outward evidences of the liking that were unmistakable. For my part, I know that I thought I was going to like it when





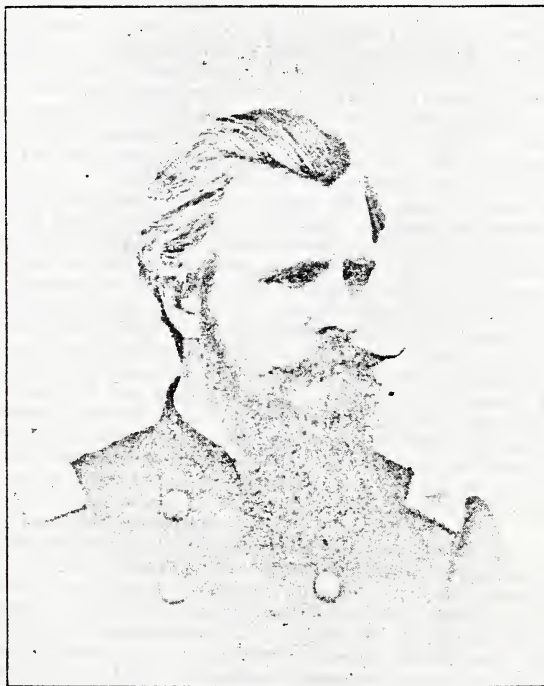
I went in, and found that I didn't like it so well when I got into it, but I guess I fought when I was in as well as anybody, whether they liked it or not. But I was going to tell you some little anecdotes about Fay. I was reminded of him quite a number of times when little things were told during this meeting in which he was an actor. One incident was told of the time we were marched out on the peninsula before the evacuation of Yorktown, where we were two days without getting anything to eat. The comrades will remember that the last of the two days we were out, there was a hard rain. It had been raining a good deal; the roads were in a terrible condition. Of course the generals of an army don't report to the privates what they are doing, and we had to take our information the best way we could get it, but the understanding among us at the time was that we were out in advance of a baggage train and that the roads were in such a bad condition that they could not get the grub out there, and we were waiting in daily and hourly expectation of the baggage train getting out, but it didn't come. While we stood there in the road a regiment came marching along out there; they had come evidently from the baggage train, because one of the men was eating a hardtack, and I made bold to become a beggar for the time being, and asked if he could not give me one, and he generously did. You all know what a hard thing hardtack is to melt in your mouth, but I never got a lump of sugar in my mouth that melted as quick as that hardtack. Soon after that we were marching back to the baggage train, to the place where it was. You remember what a dark night that was, and what the roads were. We got down to our knees once in a while in the mud and water; the country was low and the roads completely covered with water, and we splashed along through it. I think Fay was right beside me or right close to me, and a fellow in front of him stepped into one of the holes and tumbled down, and Fay, of course, tumbled over him; he couldn't help it. There was no time for him to look out, and he simply stumbled over the man and fell on top of him. This man, I don't remember who it was (perhaps I did not know at the time who it was, it was so dark, but it was one of the company) he began to swear at Fay and call him names for his carelessness, and Fay says: "Why, you damned hog, you don't want all that hole to yourself, do you?" (Laughter.)

You remember how we got back, how the 49th Pennsylvania furnished us a supper, and I have had a warm place in my heart for them ever since, although the 6th Maine was the regiment we had fraternized mostly with; the Maine boys seemed to be more like us than any other men we met in the army. They came from something like the same kind of country, and they seemed to be the same kind of men, with the same likes and dislikes. Another thing about Fay I was reminded of at the time Comrade Anderson was reading about this little excursion that we made the night before the battle of Williamsburg to recapture a couple of guns. We understood someone was going out to recapture some guns. We went along as skirmishers. Part of our company was on the left side of the road going out; and now to show what kind of a man Fay was (and I have seen this same thing fifty times with Fay, this is only one instance). It was pretty near dusk, you remember, getting dusk enough so it was a little dark in the woods. As we went out skirmishing, this French officer you have been talking about, Count de Paris, was in the road and other officers about him. He was jabbering and talking a good deal, and it seemed to me then very strange. I thought that men going out to try to recapture a piece of artillery would try to steal out, and not make so much noise about it. I could not see anybody in front, but the bullets began to whiz, and we were ordered to stop. I stood there with one foot on an old rotten log, like this (indicating) and my gun in my hand, watching, because they were firing and I didn't know but what they were coming at us. There were two or three other comrades; Sergeant Billy Kees was with us and close by me as I stood there. I heard a moving in the bushes in front of me, six or seven rods in front of me, and I cocked my gun and thought to myself "I will try to get the first whack at it", and it came a little louder, more close, the noise of a man walking along through the bushes, and the bushes bent out and a head peered out, and I drew my gun up, and it happened to be light enough so I saw it was Fay, and he saw me as quick, and he said something and I said, "I came near shooting you". But I had seen the man in time. When we were out on the skirmish line you could never keep him in the line, he would be always away off in the advance, that is the kind of a man he was; he is the only man who ever gave perfect evidence to me that he enjoyed the fighting part of a soldier's life.

Comrade Brandt—It is going back in memory to the time when General Sheridan met with us in Milwaukee, and our president, Captain Bean, read "Sheridan's Ride", and the little incident of Comrade Butterfield with the anecdote—I was going



to say that in Sheridan's life—you have all read it, but may not remember the point which I recall. When he left the army of the west and was called to Washington by General Grant he was suffering with a sickness until he had been reduced to about ninety pounds and he said he reached Willard's about nine o'clock Sunday evening, and in the morning it was with a great deal of trepidation that he walked up to see the great war secretary whose picture is above your heads, and he says: "You know the effect that weight and size give to a man, and you know how a small man is handicapped. I went into the waiting room and passed in my card and waited until I was ushered in. There was the great war secretary, about three hundred pounds in weight, and here I was standing about five feet four inches and weighing ninety pounds, and he was looking at me; he never spoke a word in language, but stronger than any words his expression, after sizing me up, seemed to say, 'Has not Grant made a mistake.'"



GENERAL AMASA COBB.

Our first Colonel.

(By reason of the haste in getting out the report of last year's reunion, the remarks made by General Cobb at the meeting as published in the report, were rendered scarcely intelligible, owing, no doubt, in great part to the fact that the proof was not read before being given to the printer. In order that what General Cobb did say may be properly preserved, the following is substituted for last year's article referred to.)

General Cobb—The comrade made a mistake when he said substantially that I made the 5th Wisconsin Regiment. It was made in severalty, long before I had the honor of commanding it as a regiment. It was made by evolution, which extraordinary circumstance works in men of character, of resolution, and of gallantry, when brought together. There is another thought in my mind in this connection. If I ever had any definite plan or system for governing the body of men who constituted the 5th Wisconsin Regiment of Volunteers, it consisted largely of a





practical and personal application of the maxim: "The world is governed too much." If I ever did my duty in the matter of the said regiment differently from the course of some others of my rank, under like or similar circumstances, the difference consisted largely in my not interfering much with the officers or men—never in nonessential matters—and occasionally doing something to remind those of them with whom I came in personal contact, of their own rights and powers and expressing to them the desire on my part that they serve their country and do their duty, without interference on my part, as was consistent with military law and the orders of our common superiors.

Coming down somewhat from generalities to certain particulars, I wish to repeat what I have often said myself and heard said by comrades: No member nor friend of the 5th Wisconsin ever tires of hearing or of speaking of the facts and incidents of the battle of Williamsburg—the first battle in which that regiment, its commander, and, so far as I know, any member of it had ever been engaged.

Upon passing through the outer room, our Comrade Howie called the attention of some of us to a picture, hung upon the wall, of the battle of Williamsburg; and I heard some of you remark that "it is a good picture of that battle," at the same time referring to a figure on horseback, a part of said picture, intended to represent myself, and remarking that I was "urging the boys on". Now, the fact is, as most of us know, neither I nor anyone on our side that took an actual part in that battle, were on horseback, except General Hancock, his staff officers, and the officers and men of the section of light artillery it was our duty to support. I, with the other mounted officers of the regiment, rode down there, but, for prudential reasons we all sent our mounts to the rear long before the enemy advanced upon us. And, instead of "urging the boys on", the principal effort made by me that day was to go back slowly and in good order, and by the use of those superior Austrian rifles that we carried, keep the brigade of Confederate infantry—which, by marching a hundred yards to the left we unmasked, marching in line upon our five companies—from getting too uncomfortably near. And it is to the circumstance of being successful in these efforts that we owe all that is of special credit to that day, and I am vain enough to believe that to what was that day done upon that field not only we, our comrades, but the State of Wisconsin and the cause for which we fought, owe a great deal. Early in the afternoon of that day the brigade reached the point which became the scene of the engagement. Brigadier General Hancock placed the brigade in position by echelon on the right. The order for this was given, as you who were there will remember, at the short halt which we made upon arriving at the last unoccupied earthwork of the enemy and coming in view of Fort Magruder. You will also remember that this earthwork is upon the brow of quite a little hill, the descent to the west being considerable, and that it overlooked a thickly-settled country, interspersed with groves and orchards.

In making his dispositions the general first pointed out to me the point where the guns of artillery, then following us, would be placed in battery, and that also where my regiment—whose primary duty, he said, would be to support the battery—should be placed. He then ordered me, as soon as I should reach my position, to detail and send forward Lieutenant Colonel H. W. Emery with companies "D" and "K" to go forward and act as a support to our skirmish line. He also directed me to remind Colonel Emery that he would be the ranking officer on the picket line, and to advise him to post his two companies in a grove or skirt of timber to our right advance. To reach my position thus pointed out to me we marched forward about six hundred yards, moving a little obliquely to the right, to the northeasterly corner of an enclosure or buildings connected by a high board fence and shed. Upon the arrival of the artillery the guns were placed in battery, near the southeasterly corner of the same enclosure. The nearest gun being between a hundred and fifty and two hundred yards from our extreme right would not have given us enough room had not our force been decimated by the details.

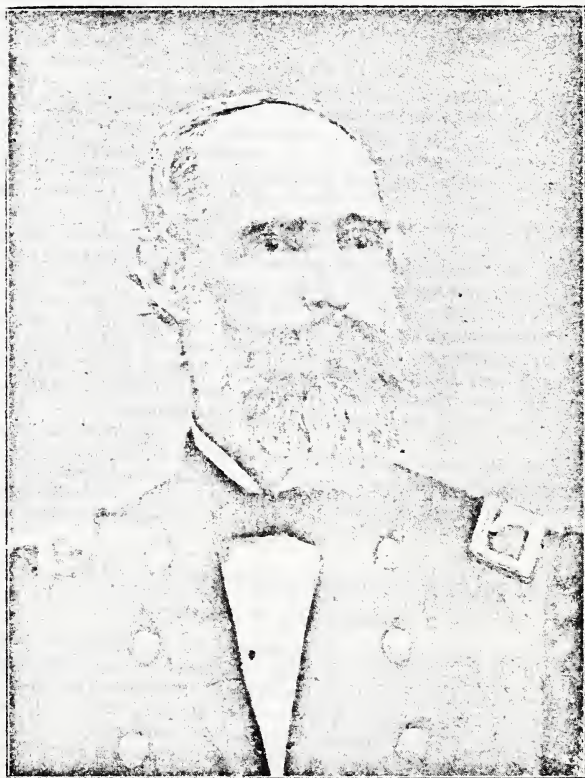
In the meantime, in order to reach the point assigned to it, the 6th Maine was marched forward about two hundred and fifty yards, moving obliquely to the left a little; and the 49th Pennsylvania halted about two hundred yards in the rear of the 6th Maine. The 33d New York, which General Hancock had caused to be given him for the occasion to supply the place of the 43d New York, which was left behind, was, part of it, placed in the last mentioned unoccupied Confederate earth work to hold it, and the balance formed some two hundred yards to the north of the earth work, at right angles with our line. The five companies of our regiment—three of which constituted our skirmishers and two the support to the skirmishers—were, in consequence of the buildings, sheds and fence in our immediate front and the





grove or skirt of timber upon our right front, entirely hidden from the view of the regiment and of myself.

The making of these dispositions consumed considerable time, and after they were completed the general delayed the opening of fire by the artillery upon Fort Magruder for the arrival of additional troops, which had been promised him by his superior officer. At about four o'clock P. M. the general gave the order, and our artillery opened its guns upon Fort Magruder and other Confederate works in our front. Very soon all the guns of the enemy in sight or hearing were turned upon us. This firing of our guns upon the enemy, and of theirs upon us, continued for about an hour without effect upon us, nor upon the enemy, so far as I could see.



GENERAL T. S. ALLEN

Who led the Light Division "into the mouth of hell and to a glorious victory."

About this time our artillery commenced limbering up the guns and caissons, one or two at a time, and taking them back to the crest and earth work where General Hancock and his staff were with the 33d New York and with a part of the guns which had been kept in reserve. We of the five companies, of course, knew that there was some reason for the falling back of our guns, and there was more or less inquiry among us as to what it could mean, and I, with other officers, was intently looking west, along the north angle of the building, trying to see if any new movement was visible in that direction, to account for this queer movement of our guns. At this time Sergeant George E. Bissell of Company "B", called my attention to what was going on in our rear and left. Turning my attention in that direction, I saw the 49th Pennsylvania faced about and marching to the rear, and a mounted



officer who, even at that distance, I knew to be Lieutenant Isaac Brown Parker of General Hancock's staff, galloping rapidly from the late position of the 49th Pennsylvania to that of the 6th Maine. He made a slight halt, or check, in his gait near the last named regiment, and then rode rapidly toward us. The 6th Maine, facing by the rear rank, immediately followed the 49th Pennsylvania. Just at this time, Major C. H. Larrabee of ours, and one of the battery officers, were about a hundred yards in the rear of the only one of our guns remaining on the field, searching for a shell thrown by the enemy that had struck about there and had not exploded, they wishing to ascertain the kind of missile then being used by the guns opposed to us. The major thus being at a point a hundred and fifty yards or so nearer the approaching staff officer than I was, and shells exploding with great frequency near that officer, he delivered his order to the major instead of to myself. The order was to "retreat" in the rawest vernacular. The major repeated it, and added, "the general says, 'retreat'". At this moment the last one of our guns was limbered up and taken off the field in great haste.

The positions on the field occupied severally by the three regiments of the First (Hancock's) Brigade in respect to each other was the formation called echelon on the right. The placing of the troops in this formation doubtless displayed good generalship on the part of General Hancock. But the echelon was reduced, or "called in", as it is sometimes expressed, as to completely destroy its advantage. Had the order been delivered first to me, leaving the other two regiments in position for the time being, it would have been my duty, after waiting a reasonable time for the three companies of the skirmish line and the two companies constituting its support to rally on the regiment, to have about faced, marched by the rear rank, formed junction with the 6th Maine, faced to the front and with this new line resisted the advancing enemy; and if still unable to do so, in like manner to have fallen back on the 49th Pennsylvania, etc. But the order being first given to the left or rear regiment, instead of the right or front one, and being executed in the manner it was, threw a heavy burden on the 5th Wisconsin, compelling us to retreat for about six hundred yards, with a start of about two hundred and fifty yards, in the face of troops of at least five times our number, and without any real support from the other regiments of the command—all of whom had every desire to share our duties and their dangers with us.

It is far from my purpose to find fault or cast blame upon our general or any of his staff officers. They were all gallant and brave, as well as intelligent, and careful and conscientious officers; and each fills an honored grave and a distinguished niche in the history of his country.

## THE BATTLE OF RAPPAHANNOCK STATION.

BY JUDGE J. S. ANDERSON.

Nearly all current histories of the late rebellion ignore the story of the storming of Rappahannock Station, or dismiss it with but slight notice. The only standard history which gives any extended narrative of that desperate struggle is that of Horace Greely. Yet it was an exploit that thrilled the whole country at that time, which called forth unstinted praise from the press and won from the commanding general of the Army of the Potomac special commendation and notice in general orders.

On the 4th of November, 1863, the Army of the Potomac lay in camp in the vicinity of Warrington, fronting the Confederate army commanded by General Lee, which occupied the line of the Rappahannock River. A short time previous, Lee had repeated against Meade the tactics and strategy which had been so successful against Hooker and Pope, and passed around the right flank of the Army of the Potomac. He had compelled Meade to fall back nearly to the vicinity of Alexandria in order to avoid a battle at a disadvantage.

Meade selected a position in the neighborhood of Centerville, and Lee, finding his antagonist had pursued a cautious and judicious course, and was ready to confront him upon ground of his own choice, fell back to the line of the Rappahannock, destroying the railroad and all other public property in his path. Meade, smarting at having been out-manuevered, and anxious to deliver a return blow, followed him a little to the south and east of Warrenton, striking the enemy a sharp blow at Bristow Station, but failed to bring him to battle. Both armies rested near the line of the Rappahannock, Lee holding the fords and crossings of the river.

On the evening of the 6th of November, 1863, orders were issued to fill up to the maximum with ammunition, to have three days' cooked rations in the haversacks

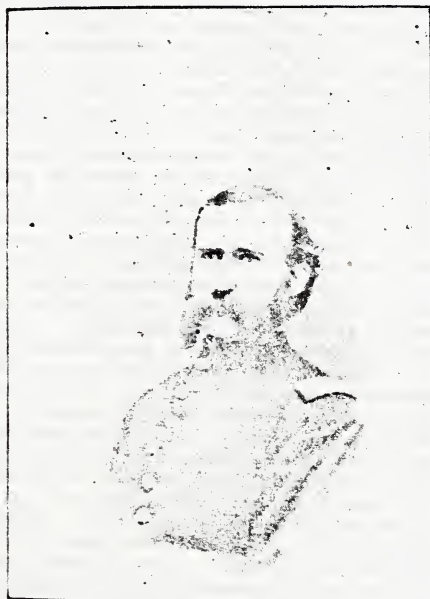




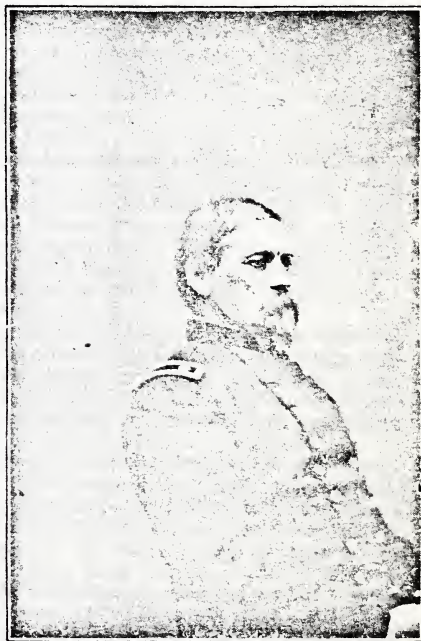


and be ready to march at daybreak. Always prompt, the bugle sounded at the headquarters of "Uncle John" Sedgwick the grand old commander of the 6th Corps, just as the sky began to redden in the east. Tents were struck, the "stirrup cup" of strong coffee drank, and as the first rays of the sun flashed above the horizon, the columns filed into the road and swung out with the long, steady marching step southward toward the enemy.

The 1st Division of the 6th Corps led the advance, the 3d Brigade, commanded by General David Russell, and consisting of the 5th Wisconsin, 6th Maine, 49th and 119th Pennsylvania in front. The 49th Pennsylvania led the entire column. After passing the picket line about two miles out, a line of skirmishers was thrown out to the front and flanks of the column, and in this manner marched without opposition until about 2 o'clock P. M., when at a distance of two and a half miles from the river, a small body of cavalry was struck. They fell back without seriously attempting to oppose the advance, contenting themselves by observing our approach. We soon arrived near the range of hills bordering the river and the head of the column



LIEUT. ANDREW S. BENNETT.



MAJOR GENERAL W. S. SMITH—"Baldy."

turned to the left so as to pass down the river. We marched down and parallel with the river nearly to the railroad and connected with the advance of the 5th Corps, under General Warren, which soon came up in force. The 2d Division of the 6th Corps, as it came up, deployed to the right and supported a couple of batteries which took position on a height from which the rebels could be seen in medium shell range. The enemy were found to be strongly entrenched on the same side of the river on which we were, holding a *tete de pont*, back of which was a pontoon bridge.

Their works consisted of several strong forts. On the south side of the river, immediately in our front, on commanding ground, was an elaborate redoubt pierced for four pieces of artillery, and containing two twelve pound Parrott guns, taken originally from Milroy at the capitulation of Winchester.

Further to the rebel right, at a distance of six hundred feet was a smaller redoubt, containing two three inch-guns, said to have been taken from us, one at



Antietam, the other at Chancellorsville. This redoubt was on ground a little lower than the first and commanded the approaches along the line of the railroad and the river below. The two redoubts were connected by a strong line of rifle pits, and to the rebel left of the larger work an elaborate and carefully constructed line of breastworks extended up the river and parallel with it for a long distance.

On the further side of the river, on a big hill that dominated the whole, was a fort in which were planted several heavy guns, I should judge field thirty-two-pounders, and further up on the same side of the river a small redoubt. Whether there was artillery in this or not I am unable to say, but I think there was, as we had artillery posted on a ridge, nearly opposite, which seemed to be replying to a heavy shelling from that direction. These works were so situated as to command the intervals between the other redoubts on the north banks of the Rappahannock, and could aid them by their fire against any enemy attacking them in front or flank.

These works were fully manned. In the works on the side of the river facing the federal troops there were two entire brigades. "Stonewall" Jackson's famous brigade was there, and with them also were the famous "Louisiana Tigers". This Louisiana brigade was commanded by Brigadier General Hayes, who as senior officer commanded the forces on that side of the river. The other brigade was that of General Hoke, who commanded a brigade of three large regiments, the 6th, 54th and 57th North Carolina. They were the flower of the rebel army. Well dressed and splendidly equipped, they no doubt considered themselves a match for any equal number of men in the world. The Louisianans occupied the two redoubts and the rifle pits connecting them and a small part of the line to their left of the larger redoubt, directly in front of the pontoon bridge. The line to their left was held by the North Carolina regiments. Our troops took some little time to deploy and form the desired connections with the 5th Corps. As soon as the lines were formed, the skirmishers of the 49th Pennsylvania were called in and the entire right wing of the 6th Maine, under Major Fuller, deployed as skirmishers, with orders to push the rebel pickets back inside of their works if possible. This was quickly and gallantly done, the artillery aiding in the work, and the men laid down behind the stumps, fallen trees, hillocks, and any object which afforded shelter, keeping up a sharp but desultory fire on the entrenched line of the enemy.

In the mean time several batteries had taken position on the ridge in front of the infantry lines and had opened a heavy cannonade on the enemy's entrenchments. Shot and shell flew like hail through the forts on both sides of the river, but without any perceptible effect. The enemy's infantry would lie down in the rifle pits while the iron storm passed over them, perfectly protected; the artillery protected by the heavy curtains of earth could not be silenced.

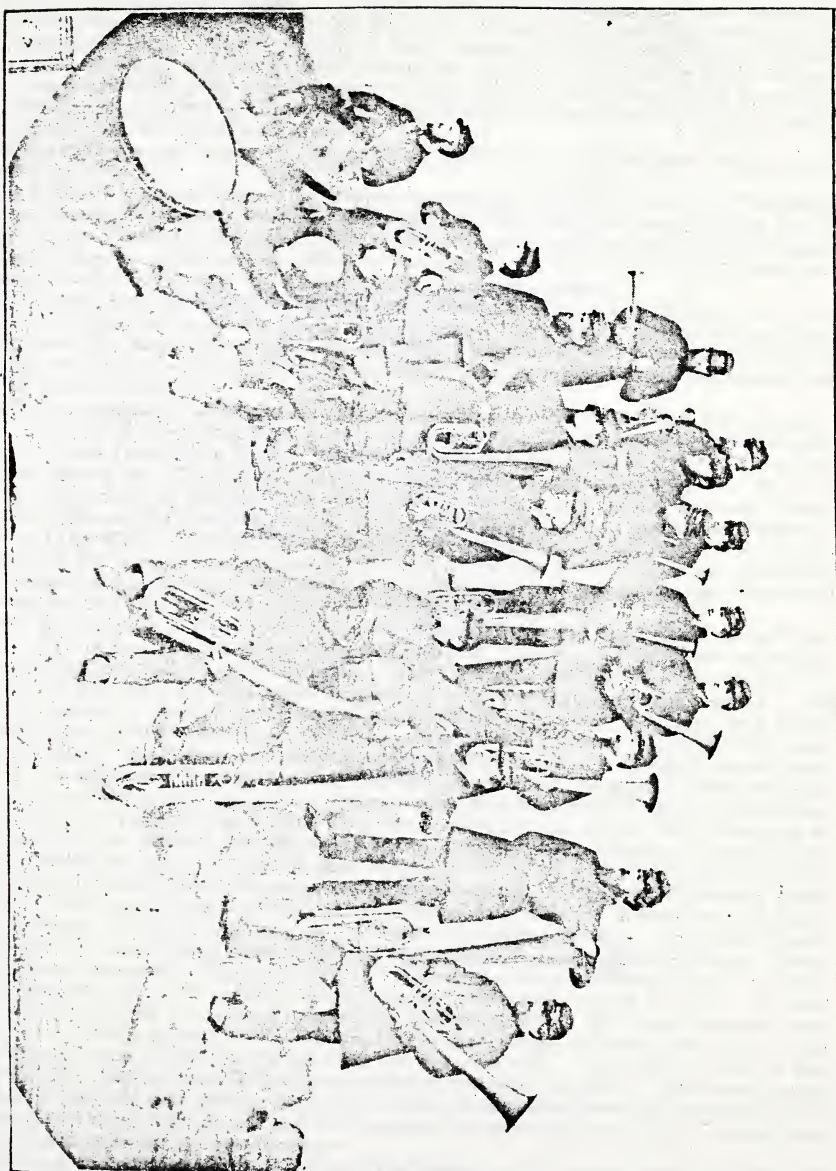
General Russell, who temporarily commanded the 1st Division of the 6th Corps, solicited permission to make an attempt with this brigade to carry it by storm. The desired permission was given by General Wright, who commanded the corps that day in place of General Sedgwick who had charge of the entire right wing of the army, and preparations were immediately begun. It was trying ground for a charge. Between our lines and the enemy were two long ranges of hilly ground with several hundred yards of broken declivity between, at the bottom of which was a small stream. The first hill shut out the view of the enemy's works but from the second crest the enemy's lines and the country on the other side were plainly visible. From this second crest the ground, flat at first, sloped gently downward until right across the path extended a swale or ditch, fourteen to twenty feet wide, with steep banks, five or six feet deep and at the bottom covered with two or three feet of water and mud. Crossing this came a flat field covered with short stumps and undergrowth and bushy tree tops, left by the troops who had cut the timber for firewood. Next came a smooth, clear stretch, which evidently had been used for a drill or parade ground by the troops encamped there. Then a sunken road; next a dry moat about twelve feet wide and five feet deep. Then came a smooth upward slope and at the summit about fifty yards distant were the earthworks.

The storming party consisted of the left wing of the 6th Maine and the entire 5th Wisconsin. They were to be supported at some distance by the 49th and 119th Pennsylvania. Just as the sun touched the western horizon the left wing of the 6th Maine deployed on the summit of the first ridge, in the form of a strong skirmish line. The 5th Wisconsin formed in line of battle a hundred yards behind them and the whole moved forward.

When the 5th Wisconsin reached the little creek I have spoken of, two or three shells whizzed above the heads of the regiment and burst close by. In another moment the regiment would be under fire. There was an ominous growl along the line and a half stop. "What is the matter, men?" cried an officer. "We're not







OUR HAND. - From a photograph taken at Camp Griffin in 1862.



loaded. You're taking us in with empty guns" cried half a hundred voices. Some officer riding in the rear, I think one of General Russel's staff, cried out "Forward, your orders are to depend entirely on the bayonet". The only answer to this was the deepening of the hoarse murmur along the line and the rattling of ramrods. Nearly every man had bitten off a cartridge and was trying to shove it down his rifle barrel as he marched in line. Finally Colonel Tom Allen, who was riding in front of the regiment had his attention called to the confusion, and, ascertaining its cause, thundered out, "Halt! Load at will. Load." "Be quick, men," Colonel Allen added. "Don't cap your guns", cried out the same staff officer from the rear again, "rely entirely upon the bayonet." The only answer was a half contemptuous growl, accompanied by the clicking of gunlocks all along the line, as the bright pieces of copper were fitted to the tubes.

"That fellow must think we're a pack of greenhorns," the writer heard one of the men say.

The rifles being loaded the line moved quietly and rapidly forward. The delay caused by loading had considerably increased the intervals between the 6th Maine skirmishers and the line of battle. These gallant fellows pushed fearlessly forward until they came up with the skirmish line formed by the right wing of the regiment, and the two thin lines together rushed headlong on the enemy.

There were less than three hundred and seventy of them, officers and men, and they had charged nearly seven times their number. The audacity and impetuosity of the attack was such that the enemy recoiled for a moment before it, but seeing how small was the number of their antagonists they sprang back to the attack and the work became hot.

No better regiment than the 6th Maine ever marched. They had never known defeat. They had never failed to break the enemy in a charge, nor to roll back the waves of attack from their front. Between them and the 5th Wisconsin there was a peculiar affection. The men of the two regiments had fraternized from the first. They were together all through the war, and had helped each other in many a hard spot. At Williamsburg, when the 5th Wisconsin was in front, fighting the advancing enemy, the 6th Maine had almost to be forced back at the point of the sword by their officers to the new line chosen for them, so anxious were they to go to the rescue. It was the 6th Maine that followed closely upon the heels of the 5th Wisconsin when they led the bloody charge of Fredericksburg Heights.

They had a right to expect that the 5th Wisconsin would not fail them and they did not. As soon as the 5th Wisconsin passed over the crest of the second ridge, behind which they had loaded their guns, they became exposed to artillery fire. A number of shells were thrown at them, most of which passed over their heads. The deepening shades of the twilight and the rapidity with which they marched down the open slope disarranged the aim of the gunners so that they suffered little or none from this cause. As they came nearer, the whistling rush of canister greeted their ears and the regiment broke into the double quick. As they clambered over the swampy river the crackle and roar of the musketry burst forth in their front and as they climbed the bank on the other side they could see the Maine boys clinging to the parapets of the redoubts or standing in the little groups of twos or threes at the very edge of the breastworks, with their bayonets at charge, or loading their guns and casting anxious glances to see if help was coming. They were falling thick and fast. Then rose from that line of battle a terrible shout. It was not the usual charging cheer. It was a yell of rage, a shout of encouragement, an implication of vengeance all in one. Only one shout and then a terrible, significant silence. They had no breath to waste. Knapsacks and haversacks were thrown right and left, and through the storm of bullets rushed the 5th Wisconsin to the rescue. A stalwart lieutenant of the 6th Maine leaped on the parapet of the large redoubt and shouted, "For God's sake, 5th Wisconsin, hurry up." The call was not needed. In another instant the line of battle reached the rebel works. The greater part of the 5th Wisconsin rushed over the parapets into the larger redoubts. The remainder swept down the rifle pits to the left and threw themselves into the smaller ones. They emptied their rifles right and left among the enemy, the muzzle sometimes touching the bodies of the opponents.

Men were found dead next morning with their flesh scorched with powder. A terrible and indescribable struggle ensued. It was hand to hand and foot to foot. The men from Maine and the men from Wisconsin, without the semblance of organization, fought side by side. The Louisianians, cut off from the pontoon bridge, and with a deep river in their rear, fought desperately. Muskets were seized and torn from the grasp of those who held them, and men grappled and fought with their fists. Inside the large redoubt, the melee was frightful. The rebel artillery





men stuck to their guns to the last and fought savagely with rammers, handspikes, swords, or whatever was at hand. A handsome, curly-haired young man of the 6th Maine, who curiously bore the name of Jeff Davis, killed one of the rebels with a blow so terrible that the stock of his rifle was swept off and the skull of his opponent shattered to fragments. The next instant he himself fell, shot through the head. Sergeant Joe Goodwin of Company "A", 5th Wisconsin, and one or two others of the regiment, wheeled one of the captured cannon around to the rear of the traverse on the left of the redoubt and seeing a line being formed near the pontoon bridge, apparently to charge back upon the fort, hurled among them a double charge of cannister intended for us, breaking them up and driving them away from the bridge. As he put his shoulder to the wheel to run the gun back he fell shot through the heart.

These two regiments carried on this terrible and unequal struggle for fifteen or twenty minutes and in that time sixteen out of twenty-one commissioned officers, and a hundred and twenty-three out of three hundred and fifty enlisted men of the 6th Maine had fallen, and of the 5th Wisconsin seven officers and fifty-six men were



DAVID W. HOWIE.

killed or wounded. Without commanders, without organization, the men fought doggedly and desperately on. Lieutenant Colonel Harris, commander of the 6th Maine, lay in the ditch with his thigh shattered. Colonel Tom Allen of the 5th Wisconsin, partially crippled in one arm by an old wound, received in battle when with the iron brigade, was struck in the other arm with a rifle bullet when he had nearly reached the works. Major Wheeler, then next in command, just recovering from an old wound received at the storming of Fredericksburg Heights, fell mortally wounded at the foot of the slope. Horace Walker of Company "A", senior Captain of the regiment, fell dead with a rebel bullet through his brain, near the right angle of the large redoubt. Captain Ordway of Company "D", next on the list, fell headlong from the parapet, killed as he was cheering on his men. Thus the four senior



officers of the regiment were struck down. Near Walker lay dead the gallant Captain Furlong of the 6th Maine, who had hitherto passed through all the battles of the regiment unhurt. He was a large, handsomely built man and was known throughout the brigade as "The Big Captain". A warmhearted, genial fellow, he was as brave as a lion, and fairly worshipped by his men.

Inside the fort and a little to the left of Ordway lay Lieutenant McKinley of the 6th Maine with his brains blown out. Around him too, laid half a dozen of his men who had followed him to the death. Thus it was all along the terrible line. The air was filled with a medley of shouts, shrieks and groans, calls to surrender, yells of defiance, imprecations and curses and through and above all other sounds the unceasing crash of musketry. The artillery on both sides were silent, for federals and confederates were so mingled together that they could not tell friend from foe.

That part of the storming party which had passed to the left of the large redoubts swept down the rifle pits to and beyond the smaller redoubt, crowding the enemy inch by inch toward the river at their right flank and rear. As they were broken they would pass up toward the pontoon bridge, thus strengthening their fellows in the fight, going on around the large redoubt. A number of them, however, were cut off and attempted to escape by passing out of their works at the extreme left and wading the river near the abutments of the railroad bridge. Here a terrible affair happened. The water was up nearly to their armpits and as they were in the stream the union soldiers, mad with the rage of battle, pushed down to the waters edge and poured a pitiless fire upon them. Many sunk wounded in the water, with a bubbling shriek, losing thus whatever chance of life was left after the bullet had done its work. The horrors of the situation struck even the battle maddened soldiers and suspending their fire they shouted to the confederates to come back and surrender. The greater part of those in the river started back to surrender but when they came near the shore an officer stepped from behind a stone abutment and ordered them to return again, enforcing his order by flourishing his sword. The men again wheeled around in the water and began splashing their way to the opposite shore and again the pitiless hail of bullets was showered upon them. At last they gave up the attempt and sheltered themselves behind the ruined abutments of the bridge where they cried for "quarters" and about seventy-five surrendered.

I have no means of knowing who the officer was that prevented his men from surrendering sooner and thus kept up the useless slaughter, but I have reason to believe it was Colonel Goodwin the commander of the Louisiana brigade, who surrendered afterwards with his men. Meanwhile, and as soon as lodgement had been effected on the enemy's works, General Russel had sent back to bring up the 49th and 119th Pennsylvania in the support. There seemed to be an almost interminable delay in their coming up, and staff officers were sent in quick succession to hurry up the movements. At last they came and with a cheer the 49th, and the greater part of the 119th, went up to the assistance of their comrades. They were none to soon. The rebels had prepared for a last desperate attempt to regain the large redoubt, from which an incessant storm of bullets was sweeping the pontoon bridge, striking down all who attempted to escape. They had gathered in force as near to the bridge as they dared. A part of the force on their left, which had not been engaged, was brought up to assist the disordered ranks of the Louisianians and a hot enfilading musketry fire had already been opened on the overtaxed forces in and around the large redoubt. This fire passing through the thin and shattered ranks of the 5th Wisconsin and 6th Maine, smote full on the right wing of the 119th Pennsylvania and threw them into disorder. Many cast themselves into the dry ditch at the foot of the slope and added to the horror and confusion of the moment by returning the fire of the rebels regardless of the fact that a line of their own comrades was between the two fires. They were in a moment, however, gallantly rallied by their major and led up in line with the rest. And now the line, thus reinforced swept on. The rebels pushed to the river's brink, threw down their arms by scores and were sent to the rear. The enemy were entirely swept away from their extreme right up to the large redoubt and along the rifle pits to a point in front of the pontoon bridge.

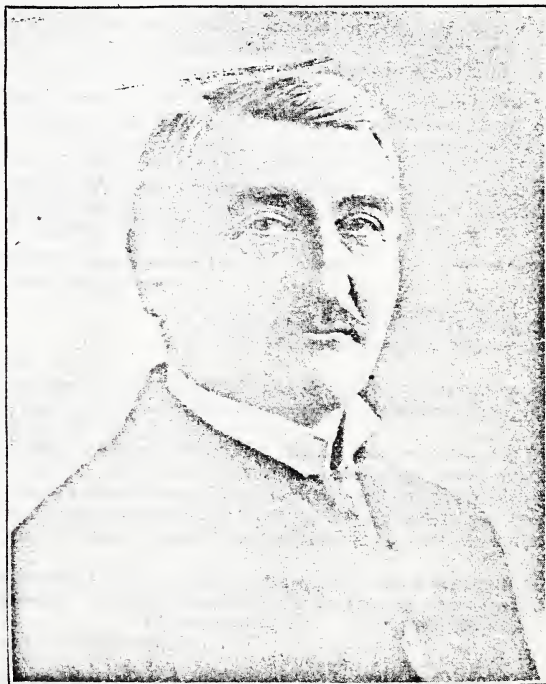
The last stroke was now given. General Russell, at last seeming to realize the fact that he had led his brigade against large odds, had sent orders to General Upton, commanding the 2d Brigade of the same division to charge with two of his regiments to the right. The officer selected the 5th Maine and the 121st New York and forming them into line of battle behind the crest of the hill nearest to the rebel line ordered them to pile up their knapsacks and all other superfluous weight and





then march rapidly forward. As they neared the rifle pits they received a scattering volley of musketry. "Steady! Forward, men! Don't fire a shot," shouted Upton, and with a ringing cheer forward they go over the rifle pits with a rush, crowding the enemy to the river bank where they surrendered. And now the conflict is over. The sullen prisoners were marched to the rear. Some few escaped up the river in the darkness which had settled down like a pall; a few stray swimmers plunged into the water and swam over to tell the tale to their comrades across the river. The rattle of the musketry died away into silence and soon lanterns were flashing over the field as the sad work of gathering up the wounded was begun.

Let me here pay a tribute to the gallant conduct of a little body of men from the 5th Corps. As the 6th Maine skirmishers, leading the storming party, pushed toward the rebel forts they overlapped the line of the 5th Corps skirmishers, composed of men from the 20th Maine. About seventy-five or eighty of these men, under a captain of that regiment, recognizing old friends and neighbors from their native



JAMES S. BOTSFORD.

State, without orders voluntarily went in with the stormers and fought as gallantly as any, leaving three or four of their number dead inside the redoubts and losing in all twenty-nine killed and wounded.

What were the results? The crossing of the river was seized and a lodgment made on the salient point of Lee's general line which compelled him to fall back to the line of the Rapidan. Four guns with caissons and ammunition, five limbers with full complement of battery horses, all complete; one stand of colors, five hundred prisoners and many hundred of stands of small arms were taken by Russell's brigade alone. Two strong redoubts were taken by a line of battle not much heavier than an ordinary skirmish line. To the two regiments of Upton's there surrendered over eleven hundred prisoners, with seven stands of colors. Most of these were from the regiments which had been broken and driven from their positions by Russell's brigade and escaped from them only to fall into the hands of Upton's men.



When it is remembered that the entire strength of Russell's brigade was fifteen hundred and forty-nine officers and men, and that all these results were accomplished by them, assisted only by two regiments of another brigade, against nearly twice their number thoroughly prepared in a chosen position, strongly fortified, I think I am warranted in saying the achievement is without parallel in the history of the war. The confederates fought under the eye of General Lee, who stood with General Jubal Early in the fort on the opposite side of the river and was an eye witness of the disaster of his forces. The chaplain of the 54th North Carolina in an account of the battle written by him to the Richmond Examiner three days later, said, "The brigade (Hoke's) is almost annihilated; the 54th has only one captain left with five lieutenants and fifteen men remaining." The fragments of the brigade are now collected under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Tate of the 6th, and attached to the remainder of the Louisiana brigade. These fragments now number two hundred and seventy-five men.

The meed of praise was given to the 6th Maine and the 5th Wisconsin for this unparalleled feat by all who witnessed it, and had it not been for the desperate tenacity with which they clung to the earthworks they had stormed until the support came up the attack must have resulted most disastrously to our troops. Nor can I close this already too long account more fittingly than by quoting from the general orders issued from brigade headquarters the second day of the battle:

"OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS—Your gallant deeds of the 7th of November will live in the annals of your country and will be not the least glorious of the exploits of the Army of the Potomac. To have carried by storm, with a mere skirmish line and a feeble support in numbers, powerful earthworks, a strong natural position, manned by the flower of the rebel army and strengthened by artillery, would be an achievement that a division of our forces might well feel pride in, but it was not too much for the gallant sons of Maine and Wisconsin."

The brave and skillful commander of the Army of the Potomac on the same day issued a general order as follows:

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,  
November 9th, 1863.

General Orders No. 101.

The commanding general congratulates the army on the recent successful passage of the Rappahannock in the face of the enemy, compelling him to withdraw to his entrenchments behind the Rapidan.

To Major General Sedgwick and the officers and men of the 5th and 6th Corps participating in the attack, particularly to the storming party under Brigadier General Russell, his thanks are due for the gallantry displayed in the assault on the entrenched position at Rappahannock Station, resulting in the capture of four guns, two thousand small arms, eight battle flags, one bridge train and sixteen hundred prisoners.

The commanding general takes great pleasure in announcing to the army that the president has expressed his satisfaction with its recent operations.

By command of MAJOR GENERAL MEADE.  
S. WILLIAMS, Assistant Adjutant General.

Comrade Anderson mailed a copy of his paper to Major General H. G. Wright and received from him in reply the following letter:

1203 N STREET, N. W., WASHINGTON, D. C.,  
October 18, 1898.

HON. J. S. ANDERSON, Manitowoc, Wis.:

Dear Sir—I have not been able sooner to respond to yours, received on the 2d inst., in which you kindly enclosed two copies of your paper on "The Battle of Rappahannock Station", which I have read with much interest.

The details of the fight, which you relate in so interesting a way, were not generally known to me personally as I was not so placed as to be able to see them, and some of them which I had never heard related are, therefore, entirely new to me. Your description of the enemy's position and of his defensive works is correct and very clearly stated.

I observe two errors in the paper which I am sure you will be glad to have called to your attention. The action was fought on the 6th of November, 1863, not 1864, as stated in your paper, and the 5th Corps was commanded by General George Sykes, and not by General Warren. The latter did not come into the command of that corps till later on in the war.





The affair at Rappahannock Station has always had a special interest for me inasmuch as it was carried out strictly in accordance with the plan by which the movement was made, and which resulted as you so well describe. Perhaps a brief general statement of that plan may be of interest to you.

The forces on our side were, as you state, the 5th and 6th Corps, the former commanded by Major General Sykes, and the latter by myself, the two corps being commanded by Major General John Sedgwick. After getting into position and observing carefully the position of the enemy it seemed to me that an attack on the enemy's redoubts, on our side of the river, ought to be successful. I, therefore, issued the orders for the movement, and notified General Sedgwick of what I had done, with the statement that if disapproved, the movement would be countermanded if done at once. This message was answered by General Sedgwick in person, accompanied by General Sykes, and it was arranged that the two corps should attack simultaneously. I explained my proposed order of attack, and General Sykes decided to attack in column.

General Howe, in command of the 2d Division, 6th Corps, came to me and proposed attacking the line of breastworks extending up the river to the enemy's left of his redoubts, which line his division faced. This proposition I could not approve, pointing out that he would be subjected to a crushing fire from the opposite side of the river; but that he must press this line so as to prevent, if possible, any support being sent from it to the redoubts. General Tyler, commanding the reserve artillery of the Army of the Potomac, offered any assistance he could afford, and at my request sent two batteries, which came promptly in position and which rendered efficient service. One of these batteries was of four and one-half inch rifles, and perhaps both; I am not certain on this point.

In the forward movement, the column of the 5th Corps drew a heavy fire from the enemy and fell back with much loss, while our thin lines were entirely successful, as you state, giving us everything on our side of the river. This method of attack in a thin line, followed up by heavier ones, is that now universally followed by all nations—the attack in heavy columns being no longer practiced anywhere.

I feel sure that I did not order the attack to be made with empty muskets, nor can I now see any reason for so doing. It is sometimes desirable that the attacking line should not fire until the works are reached, as was the case in the final attack and capture by the 6th Corps of the enemy's lines at Petersburg, where it was ordered that there should be no firing or cheering till the works were reached. Had this injunction been fully observed, our losses would doubtless have been less, as in the uncertain light of the early morning the position of the attacking forces could be scarcely made out by the enemy; but it was expecting too much, perhaps, that there should be no cheering or firing while the troops were waiting for the openings which were made in the abatis in front of the works.

The 5th Wisconsin and the 6th Maine, composing the storming line, will always remain in my memory for their fighting qualities, not only in this affair, but in all others in which they were engaged. Indeed, no member of our grand old 6th Corps can ever forget them.

Again thanking you for the copies of your paper, I am, very truly yours,

H. G. WRIGHT.

#### STORMING OF MARYES HEIGHTS, MAY 3, 1863.

(The following paper was arranged by Mr. Geo. B. Engle, Jr., and read by him before the Western Society of the Army of the Potomac, at a meeting of that society held at Chicago, September 26, 1896. Mr. Engle desires to call attention to the fact that this paper is largely a compilation from statements made by General Thomas S. Allen, who was Colonel of the 5th Wisconsin at the time of the battle of Chancellorsville, and who had the forming of the storming party, and who led the charge on Maryes Heights in person. The paper is placed in this report so that the valuable statements made by General Allen may become a part of the records of the Association of the 5th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and be preserved as a part of the history of that regiment.)

The great Army of the Potomac was made up of citizen volunteers and was endowed with a patriotic passion stronger than is usually equalled in armies, and never excelled. Its stubborn fighting, with almost continual buffetings bordering on defeat, throughout most of the four years of its existence, I feel warrants me in saying that its patriotism, as displayed in all its bloody encounters, was born of something stronger than conviction, duty or loyalty; born of a passion stronger than any of these, a passion founded on love: a love of country which knows no



reason but is ever ready to do and dare and *die*—though often discouraged, often severely hurt, often bleeding and torn, yet never demoralized; always prompt to respond to the demands made upon it; patient in affliction and ever willing as any true lover knight to spring to the defence of his true love. During its entire life it never faltered, it was never dismayed; with a passion not to be overcome it stood for all that is true, all that is sacred, all that is best in God's own free America. In all its trials, in all its afflictions, in all its distresses, it ever held "Old Glory" to the front until treason was hopelessly defeated, and its minions had surrendered.

At this time it is my desire to present to you such facts as I have been able to gather regarding the successful storming of Maryes Hill and the stone wall at its base at the rear of Fredericksburg, made famous as "the slaughter pen" in the story of Burnside's attack. The storming of these heights is fully illustrative of the prowess and courage of the grand old army, claiming no superiority for the Light Division over others. That brigade made a record, and the only one that it ever made as an organization, fully in line with the many deeds of devotion of the Army of the Potomac for its country. (The Light Division was disbanded at the close of this campaign.)

Fredericksburg was defended at this time by Early's confederate division of four brigades, and Barksdale's brigade of McLaw's division. Barksdale occupied the heights, including Maryes Hill and the stone wall at its base. Early's division held the confederate right below the town. The 8th Louisiana confederate battery occupied the heights of Maryes Hill, and one battery of the Washington Artillery the heights on Lee's Hill, and another the heights to the right of Maryes Hill, facing almost directly down the Telegraph and Plank Roads.

In addition to these forces, Wilcox's confederate brigade, which had been stationed at Bank's Ford, came up to Barksdale's assistance, not to take any part in the defence of these works, but in time to aid in the resisting the advance towards Salem Church.

Many accounts have been given of this charge by as many different writers, and each differing from the others in many important particulars.

Swinton, in his "Campaign of the Army of the Potomac", revised edition, page 297, says (after speaking of the primary efforts made earlier in the day of Sunday, May 3): "That which now presents itself as best suited to the circumstances, and promising the best results, was to form a powerful assaulting column and carry Maryes Heights by storm. The preliminary endeavors and the preparations for attack had consumed considerable time and it was towards eleven o'clock when it began. Two columns were formed from Newton's division—the right column of four regiments, and the left column of two regiments—and on the left of this a line of battle of four regiments was thrown out. The columns moved on the Plank Road and to the right of it directly up the heights. The line of battle advanced on the left of the road on the double-quick against the rifle pits, neither halting nor firing a shot until they had driven the enemy from their lower line of works along the stone wall at the base of Maryes Hill. In the meantime the storming parties had rushed forward to the crest and carried the works in rear of the rifle pits, capturing the guns and many hundred prisoners. The assault was executed with great gallantry, under a very severe fire that cost Sedgwick a thousand men; and the confederates made a savage hand to hand fight on the crest over the guns. As, simultaneous with these events, Howe's division on the left carried the crest below Fredericksburg, capturing a number of prisoners and five guns, the whole ridge was now in Sedgwick's possession. Early's troops retreated southward over the Telegraph Road, leaving the Plank Road from Fredericksburg to Chancellorsville open to an advance of Sedgwick. This the latter proceeded with all haste to set on foot."

Thus in little less than a page Swinton dismisses the subject of this charge.

General T. S. Allen, then commanding the 5th Wisconsin, and to whom was entrusted the formation of the storming party, and who gallantly led the charge of the Light Brigade "into the mouth of hell" and won a glorious victory, states: "It will be remembered that General Hooker took command of the Army of the Potomac after the great 'Burnside Battle' and mud march. He proceeded energetically to put his command into fighting trim, reorganizing both cavalry and infantry arms of the service, remarking that heretofore nobody had ever seen a dead cavalryman and it was time that this branch of the service should do its share of the work. He ordered the formation of a 'light' division, or brigade, as General Sedgwick termed it, in the 6th Corps, consisting of the 5th Wisconsin, 6th Maine, 43d New York and 61st Pennsylvania, to which was attached the 7th New York Battery. The only transportation allowed consisted of pack mules, upon which all infantry ammunition and supplies were to be carried when on special duty. Before active operations







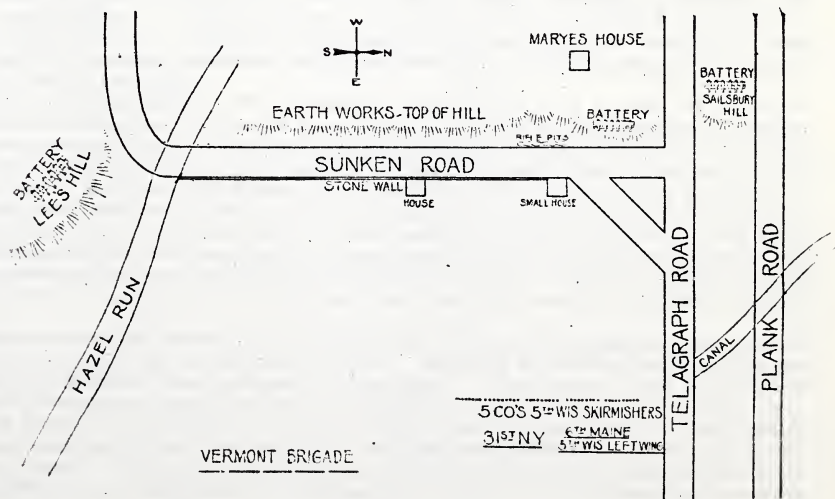
began in the spring Colonel Hiram Burnham, of the 6th Maine, senior officer of the brigade, was assigned to the command. He was a brave officer and was afterwards promoted to a brigadier generalship, and killed in the Army of the James."

The two armies, under Hooker and Lee, during the whole winter occupied respectively the east and west banks of the Rappahannock River, grimly frowning upon each other, one from the Stafford Heights, and one from the rear of the beautiful city of Fredericksburg, cosily nestled below the rapids of the river and near the base of the famous Maryes Heights, each ready to spring at the other's throat like two enraged giants, as soon as the word of command was given, which only awaited the drying up of the roads. Hooker broke camp on the morning of the 28th of April, 1863, the 6th Corps moving to Franklin's Crossing, some three miles south of Fredericksburg, at which place pontoons were laid and a crossing made in the face of the enemy during the night; Russell's brigade of Brook's division was the first to cross. The 1st Corps crossed below, but was withdrawn on the 2d of May and ordered to join Hooker, who, with the greater portion of his army, had crossed above and in the rear of Chancellorsville. The 6th Corps was retained to cut off the retreat of Lee's army towards Richmond.

At eleven o'clock on the night of May 2d, General Sedgwick received an order from General Hooker to move up to Fredericksburg and push on towards Chancellorsville. This meant that he must break the confederate line on Maryes Heights, which commanded every road leading to Chancellorsville, and which were held by some twelve to fifteen thousand men, mostly Early's confederate division—the same men that had inflicted such terrible punishment on Burnside in the December previous; sacrificing sixty-five hundred men dead and wounded to the "slaughter pen" in front of the stone wall at the base of Maryes Hill, and repulsing three of the most desperate charges ever made. The corps was immediately put in motion, Shaler's brigade leading the column. The night was very dark, rendering doubly distinct the confederate signal fires on the heights and the flashes of musketry from the skirmishers thrown out to impede our march, in which attempt they were successful to the extent that it was broad daylight before we arrived at and crossed Hazel Run, a stream which wound around Maryes Hill on the north and Lee's Hill on the south.

Two assaults were soon made by regiments of Wheaton's and Shaler's brigades upon the stone wall, which resulted, as might have been expected, in defeat, confusion and retreat with considerable loss. Then came consultation, hesitation and delay. That the works must be stormed and carried was certain, as Hooker was caged up in the woods with one hundred thousand men, and Sedgwick's twenty-two thousand were expected to cut a road through Lee's army to relieve him. How to do it was the question.

To illustrate the situation and plan of attack, the following outline diagram has been prepared:



Disposition of troops forming the storming party at the time order to advance was given.



In the "History of the Civil War", written by the Count de Paris, an officer who volunteered and served on McClellan's staff, and who was the recognized heir of the Bourbon dynasty in France, (Vol. 11, pages 571 to 572) I find the best military description of this situation. He says:

"Maryes Heights, which command Fredericksburg at the southwest, form two tiers of terraces. The second terrace projects towards Fredericksburg like a large fortification, for which nature has provided bastions and flanks. This terrace, which presents a front of twenty-five hundred metres, is divided into three almost equal sections by two slight exenterings. These sections are called, the one at the northwest, Stansbury Hill; the one in the center, Cemetery Hill; that at the southwest bears more particularly the name of Maryes Hill, which has become celebrated in America. At each extremity of this front, the rest of the terrace turns in nearly a right angle, resting upon the second tier of hills, which command it completely. On the Stansbury hillside the front is covered by a broad and deep lateral canal, impassable without the aid of a bridge, which penetrates into the town of Fredericksburg.

"At four hundred metres before entering this town, on a line with Cemetery Hill, a large ditch which carries off the waste water of the canal, detached itself from it and running in a parallel direction with the Rappahannock finally emptied itself into Hazel Run. It was an obstacle that could be surmounted, although difficult, and which it was absolutely necessary to pass in order to approach the positions of Cemetery Hill or Maryes Hill. The road from Fredericksburg to Orange Court House through Chancellorsville, well known since as the Plank Road, passes over the first terrace, following the strip of land which separates these two hills. At two hundred metres (about 225 yards) to the south, the road from Spottsylvania Court House, called the Telegraph Road, follows a parallel direction across the plain to the foot of Maryes Hill, then, turning southward, envelopes the whole hill, together with the angle of the terrace and after traversing the rear part of it, ascends on the other side of Hazel Run, a high hillock which marks the commencement of the wooded ridge, whose undulations reach down to Massaponex Creek.

"On the summit of Maryes Hill stands the house of the Maryes family, from which the name is derived. Thence a declivity, of considerable steepness and entirely open, descends to the Telegraph Road. This road on the side of Fredericksburg, is supported by a sustaining wall of stone, which also rises above the level of the road as a parapet. Beyond, the road sinks gradually as far as the ditch which serves as an outlet to the canal, rising again afterward in the direction of the town: the whole of the space is bare, and only intersected by fences formed of stumps of trees or boards, which afford no shelter to an assailant. A double line of breastworks and redoubts crown the two terraces, while at the foot of the second the wall by which the road is bounded, had, with the addition of some earth, been continued into a continuous work, behind which the infantry found absolute protection, and from which it could cover with its fire the whole space intervening between its position and the ditch. The hillock over which the Telegraph Road passes after crossing Hazel Run, and which at a later period was denominated 'Lee's Hill', was also covered with several redoubts which enfiladed this road and completely flanked the position of Maryes Hill."

Colonel Allen continues: "The batteries on Maryes Hill, as well as those on Lee's Hill and Stansbury Hill, sent fiery signals of alarm and warning in the shape of shell and shrapnel into the center of every exposed position, to which owing to their heights and distance, it was useless for our field batteries to respond. But the batteries on Stafford's Heights across the river—thirty and forty pounders—occasionally returned the salute, and the whizzing and bursting of shell over our heads, together with the thunder and crash and roar of the artillery would have rendered the situation very unpleasant to anyone who did not pride himself on being an old soldier, not to be frightened by bluster and noise. Wheaton's, Shaler's and Eustis' brigades were withdrawn back into the streets of the city—a place of perfect security.

"Gibbon's division, which had been kept in reserve at Falmouth, crossed over under orders to make an attack on the right. General Howe was to attack on the left, while our division was assigned to the center. The former were brought up standing by finding no bridge across the canal in front of his position, while General Howe found it impossible to carry the left, owing to the nature of the ground. As General Sedgwick says in his report: 'Nothing remained but to carry the works by direct assault.' This was what every man present knew must be done, the main question being, 'how can it be done successfully?' and 'who shall head the storming column?'





"Between seven and eight o'clock, Colonel Burnham rode up to me and said: 'Colonel Allen, General Sedgwick orders that you deploy your regiment as skirmishers in front of the 6th Maine and the 31st New York, to storm the stone wall on Maryes Hill.'

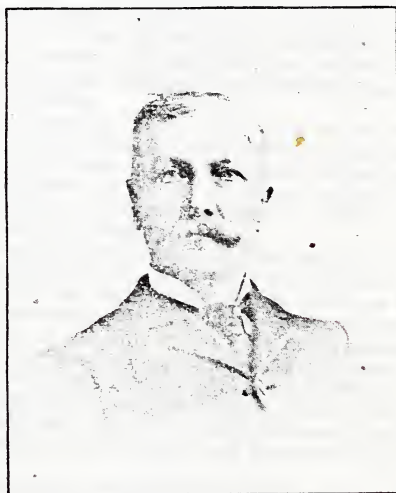
"Colonel Burnham, this is impossible; my regiment, the 5th Wisconsin, deployed as ordered would cover three times the front of any two regiments.'

"But this is the order.'

"Well, then, please tell General Sedgwick that his order is impossible; but allow me to suggest that I be allowed to deploy the right wing of the 5th Wisconsin in single rank in the front line, placing the left wing in two ranks in rear of the 31st New York, which is the small regiment.'

"I then told Colonel Burnham that I did not 'hanker after' the position assigned me, honorable as it was; but that with proper supporting columns on the right and left of the line of battle, I believe we might be successful. The fact really was that for a little while I felt blue, and if there was a man in the Light Division who felt as if he were going to a picnic he did not come within the range of my field glass.

"Colonel Burnham reported to General Sedgwick and soon returned, giving me full authority to form the order of battle to suit myself, so far as the direct attack in our front was concerned.



CAPTAIN W. H. KEES.

"General Sedgwick, in his report, which may be found in Vol. 1, 'Congressional Reports on the Conduct of the War', states the order of formation as follows: 5th Wisconsin, Colonel Allen, as skirmishers; 6th Maine, Lieutenant Colonel Harris; 31st New York, Colonel Jones; 23d Pennsylvania, Colonel Ely (this latter regiment volunteering). This was according to General Sedgwick's first order, excepting as to the latter regiment, which neither myself [Colonel Allen] nor any of my men saw or heard at the time, and their presence there is not mentioned by any historian of the war. Where the regiment was is a mystery. The actual order of battle was as shown in the diagram: only one-half of the 5th Wisconsin was deployed in the first line, the other half forming a third line in the rear of the 31st New York, and was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Catlin, myself [Colonel Allen] taking charge of the first line, assisted by Major Wheeler.

"The first column to our right consisted of the 7th Massachusetts, Colonel Johns, and the 36th New York, Colonel Walsh. The second column near the Plank Road was headed by the 61st Pennsylvania, Colonel Spear; the 43d New York, Colonel Baker, supported by the 82d Pennsylvania and the 67th New York (the 1st Long Island).



"Our lines were promptly formed in close order, there not being room enough to take distance between them without unnecessary exposure to the confederate artillery and infantry, and some three hundred yards in front of the stone wall, protected from the enemy by a slight rise of ground but exposed to danger from our own artillery across the river, some shells bursting over our head. General Sedgwick's orders were that the caps should be removed from the men's guns so that they would not be tempted to fire while making the charge, and that the line should advance when a general fire was opened on the columns to the right. I at once passed down the line of each regiment, informing both officers and men that the bugle would sound the charge for the first line of the 5th Wisconsin to start, that the 6th Maine and the 31st New York should follow at thirty paces, and the third line at the same distance, all on the double quick; in order to make a demonstrative front that the muskets at the start would be carried at arms port, and as to removing the caps, the honor of the men would be trusted not to fire a shot until the stone wall was reached. (This formation was made at about 8 o'clock A. M.)

"And now came the terrible ordeal of waiting and watching for the appearance of the columns which were to move up on our right. The batteries were firing, but no column came in view. The confederates from their heights in front of us were observing every motion, but not a musket shot was fired. An hour, and no column! Another hour, and no column! And thus the minutes and hours sped on. When will the charge be made and the long agony be over? For three weary hours, under a burning sun, lay the men; tired, impatient, not over confident, yet determined.

"Three long hours—to think of the sixty-five hundred men who had been killed and disabled in Burnside's attack in December previous, in the 'slaughter pen'. Only a few rods in front; hours and thoughts not provocative of mirth or jest, although many of the men sought the embrace of sleep which had been denied them for more than twenty-four hours.

"Three long hours—to imagine 'how sweet it is to die for one's country', but somewhat disagreeable in contemplation even when accompanied by a stern resolution 'to go where glory waits thee', even if its 'path leads but to the grave'.

"Three long hours—to think of father at home toiling for the support of his family, his boys all gone, his counsel remembered: 'Never show your back to the enemy or bring disgrace on your family'.

"Three long hours—to recall the image of the faithful mother in the old homestead, whose parting blessing still rings in your ears, who is studying what more she can do, what to send to her dear boys in the army to encourage them or to make them comfortable, and whose first and last duty is to kneel at her bedside, the holy incense of whose prayers ascends to the high courts above as an offering, and as an appeal for Heavenly protection for her far-off children.

"Three long hours—to wonder what brother, or sister, or children, or perhaps one whom you hope to make dearer to you than all when this cruel war is over and your victories have brought peace to a distracted country, to wonder what will be their feelings when the news of your death and heroism is flashed over the wires to a desolate home.

"Three long hours—to turn over the few valuables in your depleted pocketbook or knapsack to the quartermaster, sergeant or to the chaplain, for transmission to those who most need and will most highly appreciate them, treasuring them up as family heir looms.

"Three long hours—to move from rank to rank to give the parting handshake to old comrades with cheerful remark: 'Well, old boy, some of us will have to go; but some of us must win. If anybody can, it will be the boys of the 5th Wisconsin and the 6th Maine.'

"This is no fancy sketch; it is far short of a description of what actually took place. War is terrible: not alone for the wounds and death, which more than decimate the ranks, but for anguish which precedes and follows in its train. The weary hours of suspense while waiting for the charge and the doubt which hangs over the result, are the most trying of all, even to the bravest soldiers; and the most demoralizing to the cowardly. They offer the greatest temptation to desertion. But when the charge is opened, when shot and shell begin to fly, and a comrade is struck down by your side, then excitement and passion assert their sway, and a desire for victory stimulates every nerve into action. It is only a few who are able to master the elements of passion and revenge, and guide the swollen current into the proper channel.

"Three hours, however productive of impatience and provocative of the usual army expletives, must have an end. Anxious looks so long directed towards the city were finally rewarded and just before eleven o'clock, a column of troops was





seen debouching from one of the streets of Fredericksburg, and moving by the flank up the Plank Road. This was the column headed by Colonel Spear. Soon a second column emerged from another street and moved up the Telegraph Road in the direction of our right flank. This was the column headed by the 7th Massachusetts, Colonel Johns. Artillery from the heights immediately opened, a few shells burst over and passed the ranks, inflicting more scare than damage. The big guns on Stafford Heights across the river opened a general cannonade all along the line upon the confederate batteries, but the range was too long to render their fire very effective. But the boom and roar and the shrieking of the shells as they whizzed over our heads in the right direction was music, wonderfully encouraging to our ears. The arrangements being now apparently complete, confidence in the result usurped the place of suspense and doubt. I [Colonel Allen] went back to Colonel Burnham and apologized to him for some impatient and hasty words I had used in relation to the unsatisfactory state of affairs, and told him no matter how many of us might fall, I believed we should certainly succeed in the charge, and then returned to my command and reiterated the orders in relation to the assault.

"As before stated, my orders were to make the charge as soon as the confederates opened a general fire upon the columns. I could distinctly see these columns moving up with a steady but firm step. Soon they were within three hundred yards of the confederate lines; but with a perversity and persistence terribly provoking and tantalizing, the confederates in their secure rifle pits reserved their fire. I trembled at the thought of the carnage which I knew must ensue if the fire from all the lines in front and on the flanks should be concentrated at once on the heads of the columns marching by the flanks, on the Plank and Telegraph Roads, and believing that our time had now come, I asked permission of Colonel Burnham to put my lines in motion, and was authorized by him to use my own discretion. Just as anticipated, I had hardly resumed my place, when a volley of shell and canister struck the heads of both the columns advancing on the Plank and Telegraph Roads, which caused them to reel and waver, some of the men seeking refuge behind a house—probably the toll house on the Plank Road. The commanding officer, Colonel Spear, 61st Pennsylvania, fell, mortally wounded, from his horse, and general confusion ensued. This was witnessed by myself and several of my officers. I immediately caused 'Attention' to be sounded, when every man sprang to his feet. Then, in order to encourage the men and to put them on their nerve, I addressed them substantially as reported in the several histories of Wisconsin in the war, and which a failure to notice now would be taken as an exhibition of false modesty on my part.

"Boys, you see these heights. You have got to take them. You think you can not do it, but you can, and you will. When the signal "Forward" is given, you will start at double quick—you will not fire a gun—and you will not stop till you get the order to halt. You will never get that order."

"The charge was sounded, when each man in the first line, with a cheer which reechoed from the heights, sprang like a tiger from his lair, followed at thirty steps by the second and third lines respectively, with a rousing yell. This was signal enough for the enemy to set all the devilish enginery of war and destruction in motion. The flanking batteries on Lee's Hill enfiladed our lines with showers of shell and shrapnel, the batteries on the right on Stansbury Hill poured in their volleys of cannister, while the rifle pits in front and on the flanks threw torrents of molten rain with deadly precision. Men were falling on every hand, yet none but the wounded and dead dropped from the ranks.

Forward the Light Brigade,  
Was there a man dismayed?  
Cannon to the right of them,  
Cannon to the left of them,  
Cannon in front of them  
Volleyed and thundered.

Stormed at with shot and shell,  
Boldly they rode and well,  
Into the jaws of death,  
Into the mouth of hell—  
Rode the six hundred.

"Onward and upward press our brave boys. Captain Lewis G. Strong, Captain J. J. Turner, Lieutenant Robinson and scores of sergeants and privates were killed or mortally wounded. Major Wheeler, Captain Walker, Captain Kempf, Lieutenants Mueller, Gibson, Mover, Hathaway, Carter and scores of brave men have been disabled by wounds, and yet the line does not waver nor is a single man so demor-



alized as to think of stopping to fire a shot. Another moment and we come to the rise of ground whose slight crest it was feared would tempt the men to halt and open fire. This surmounted and passed and the day is ours; a moment's hesitation and all is lost. Will the men of the 5th Wisconsin obey orders and continue their rush to the stone wall? And will the 6th Maine and the 31st New York close at their heels give them the necessary support. Words of encouragement from the officers and on they go. A glance to the rear shows the glorious old 'Pine Tree' regiment, the 6th Maine, crowding upon us in solid phalanx—an answer to the latter question. The danger line is passed, and the struggle to be first at the stone wall causes almost superhuman exertion. The left wing of the 5th rushes up and joins the second line. The 'Slaughter Pen' is once more a slaughter pen, but only the wounded find their way to the rear. The stone wall is reached, some of its occupants escaping to the roadway which winds around the hill, and others surrendering themselves as prisoners, except a desperate few who are either bayoneted or have their heads smashed by clubbed muskets. And now for the heights above—a short but very steep ascent, hard to climb, but scaled in short order by men all along the line. The stone wall has proved obstruction enough to allow some of the fleetest men of the 6th Maine to mingle with ours in the last general scramble. The battery and redoubt on the top of the hill was gained, when some of the men turned and took possession of another similar one to the right. Not a halt of a single instant had been made till the highest point was reached and the redoubt and battery were in our possession. Lieutenant Edward Owen of the 8th Louisiana Confederate Battery, surrendered to me in person. The colors of the 6th Maine, being nearer to the most accessible point than ours, were the first to be planted on the parapet. The whole time consumed in the charge could not have exceeded three minutes—a terrible but glorious three minutes, in which the loss of the 5th Wisconsin was 44 men and officers killed and 123 wounded—a total of 167. The loss of the 6th Maine was stated at one of the reunions at 137, which I think is below the truth. The loss of the whole corps in the several charges was about one thousand killed and wounded.

"The two columns on the right which were moving up by the flank, after being twice repulsed, rallied as promptly as could be expected as soon as the charge by the Light Brigade was assured, although Colonel Spear of the 61st Pennsylvania, at the head of one, had been killed at the first volley, and Colonel Johns, at the head of the other, severely wounded at the same time. The Vermont brigade of Howe's division simultaneously made a charge on Lee's Hill, capturing a battery on its summit."

An editorial correspondent of the "Chicago Times-Herald", under date of March 3, 1869, says in that paper: "Possibly the most brilliant feat of arms of the war was the charge of Maryes Heights by the 5th Wisconsin and the 6th Maine. Colonel T. S. Allen, of the Wisconsin command, led the assault. To his men he said, as he pointed to the heights: 'Perhaps you think you can not take them. I know you can. When the order to advance is given, trail arms and move forward on the double quick. Don't fire a gun and don't stop till you hear the order to halt. This order you will never get.' The road to the top was the way to death, and the two small regiments were at the center of destruction. 'It was like a journey to hell, but we have made the trip, boys,' said Colonel Allen shortly afterward to the few he had left. The confederate officer in command of the heights said, as he handed over his silver spurs and sword: 'I did not think the whole Army of the Potomac could carry this point. It was the most daring assault ever made.' The correspondent of the "London Times", which does not as a rule grow unduly enthusiastic over victories of northern armies, wrote, "Never at Fontenoy, Albuera or Waterloo, was more undaunted courage shown. In the preceding December, confederates had withstood repeated assaults, and sixty-five hundred federal soldiers had been killed in the futile attempts to carry the heights." To these accounts let your historian add that the 5th Wisconsin and 6th Maine had about eight hundred and fifty officers and men in line in this charge, according to official figures, with a loss of three hundred and ten killed and wounded, equalling about thirty-five per cent. of the total of the two regiments. I have no account of the losses in the 31st New York.

Colonel Allen gives the time consumed in making this charge as three minutes. I can say that a personal friend of mine attached to artillery brigade headquarters took the time on this charge from Stafford Heights on the opposite side of the river, and that it was just six minutes from the time the skirmish line started until the 6th Maine's colors floated over the captured works.

I doubt if in any charge ever made a greater per cent. of loss was sustained in the same length of time than these six minutes.





The grand old Army of the Potomac shall live in history. Its valiant deeds shall be told on in song and story. The love and devotion manifested by its members in the sacrifice of blood, trial and hardships, manfully borne, must be to future generations an inspiration to brave deeds and to the manly defence of our country and all that is grand, noble and good in this land, over which we trust shall float until time shall be no more, that starry banner which was borne to victory over all its enemies.

Finally, when all the work of the Army of the Potomac was done and the war over, what was left of it and all our other grand and noble armies, quit the field, leaving their war patriotism behind them to again take up the duties and pursuits of citizenship; and among the best and bravest of all our patriot citizens may be found the old soldiers in the front rank and with the same patriotic hearts, fired by the same loving passion for their country and its glory that filled their hearts in '61 to '65.

GEO. B. ENGLE, JR., Company "A" 5th Wisconsin.



## OUR HONORED DEAD.

(Since last Report.)

---

"On fame's eternal camping ground,  
Their silent tents are spread,  
And glory guards that solemn round,  
The bivouac of the dead."

---

HANS SWANSON, Co. "D", 1899.

GILBERT JOHNSON, Co. "I", 1899.

ALBERT A. FAYETTE, Co. "I", April, 1899.

JAMES B. CANTERBURY, Co. "D", December 14, 1900, LaCrosse, Wis.

ADELBERT EDWIN LANE, Co. "G", March 17, 1901, Garden Valley.

GEORGE W. NEWBERRY, Co. "H", November 22, 1900, Chicago.

CHARLES NONOV, Co. "E", Naugart.

A. J. WANZER, Co. "G", December 29, 1899, Eau Claire, Wis.

ALVAH MCCOLLOM, Co. "G", April 20, 1885.

J. W. STONEY, Co. "G", Clinton, Wis.

JAMES W. HUGGINS, Co. "E", January 25, 1901, Fitzgerald, Ga.

SAMUEL J. HOOKER, Co. "B", October, 9, 1900.

DANIEL McLARTY, Co. "B", August 6, 1901, Columbus, Wis.





# ...ROSTER...

OF THE

## FIFTH WISCONSIN INFANTRY—1861-1865

Compiled by the Secretary of the Association from names and addresses  
furnished by members, November, 1901

### FIELD AND STAFF.

General Amasa Cobb (1st Colonel).....2644 Portland St., Los Angeles, Cal.  
General Thomas S. Allen (2d Colonel)....Oshkosh, Wis.  
Lieutenant Colonel James M. Bull.....Pipestone, Minn.  
Surgeon Ambrose Jones.....Dalton, Sauk Co., Wis.  
Colonel John G. Clark, Lieut. and Q. M..Lancaster, Wis.  
Sergeant Major Charles Francis Powell.  
Major, Corps of Engineer, U. S. A...Pittsburg, Pa.  
Richard Carter, Quartermaster Sergeant.Dodgeville, Wis.  
George H. Hardy, Commissary Sergeant.Clarion, Wright Co., Ia.

### BAND.

Robert Brand.....Oshkosh, Wis.  
James W. Loudon, Jr.....Janesville, Wis.  
Burnice C. Hill.....Beloit, Wis.  
Robert Powrie.....Fond du Lac, Wis.  
George P. Winn.....Beloit, Wis.

### COMPANY. "A".

Captain Wilson S. Goodwin.....Yankton, S. D.  
First Lieutenant Aaron B. Gibson.....Robinson, Brown Co., Kan.  
Corporal James S. Anderson.....Manitowoc, Wis.  
Francis Aldridge.....Veterans' Home, Waupaca, Wis.  
Daniel Bubolz.....Reedsville, Manitowoc Co., Wis.  
Joseph L. Cox.....87 Sixth St., Milwaukee, Wis.  
William H. Crocker.....1342 North Ave., Milwaukee, Wis.  
Sergeant Samuel B. Clark.....812 Barkley St., Chester, Pa.  
Ezekiel Emerson.....Rochester, Windsor Co., Vt.  
First Sergeant Julius Enert.....1527 Reid St., Los Angeles, Cal.  
Geo. B. Engle, Jr.....142 Washington St., Chicago, Ill.  
John Gilbert.....Clark's Mills, Manitowoc Co., Wis.  
Stephen J. Herman.....1719 N St., Lincoln, Neb.  
Louis LaCount, M. D.....Merrill, Wis.  
Corporal John R. Leykom.....Antigo, Wis.  
Sergeant James S. Leonard.....Green Bay, Wis.  
Edward Guido Linderman.....National Home, Milwaukee, Wis.  
Thomas McCafferty.....Veterans' Home, Waupaca, Wis.  
John Daniel Mill.....Hika, Manitowoc Co., Wis.  
John Mallet.....338 Fulton St., Chicago, Ill.  
Morris Mullins.....Soldiers' Home, Quincy, Ill.









First Sergeant William H. Landolt .....	Wauwatosa, Milwaukee Co., Wis.
Jacob Miller .....	Veterans' Home, Milwaukee, Wis.
Joseph Nick .....	Green Bay, Wis.
Sergeant John Ross .....	713 Aurora St., Waukesha, Wis.
Ernst Schwartzberg .....	National Home, Leavenworth Co., Kan.
Joseph Teubner .....	Winnebago City, Minn.
Frederick Volkman .....	89 Lee St., Milwaukee, Wis.
Joseph Zechmeister .....	Milwaukee, Wis.

#### COMPANY "D".

Paul Andrews .....	Stevens Point, Wis.
Oliver W. Bean .....	Minneapolis, Minn.
Calvin Blood .....	Plainfield, Waushara Co., Wis.
Phillip Blodgett .....	Veterans' Home, Waupaca, Wis.
Richard A. Canterbury .....	4322 Vincennes Ave., Chicago, Ill.
Charles M. Conklin .....	Adrian, Mich.
James De Clark .....	55 Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill.
Charles F. Cleveland .....	Wittenburgh, Shawano Co., Wis.
Charles Charnock .....	354 N. Breed St., Los Angeles, Cal.
Edward F. Charnock .....	316 Clay St., Los Angeles, Cal.
Frederick Gilham .....	Wausau, Wis.
John C. Hagarty .....	Hagarty, Marathon Co., Wis.
Louis Longstaff .....	Milwaukee, Wis.
David H. McMillan .....	Oshkosh, Wis.
Charles H. Miller .....	631 S. Negley Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa.
Henry Pellersels .....	Grand Rapids, Wood Co., Wis.
James Powers .....	National Home, Milwaukee, Wis.
John Rogler .....	1216 Twentieth Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.
Isaac Slover .....	National Home, Leavenworth Co., Kan.
Joseph A. Warner .....	Hudson, S. D.
John H. Whitmore .....	Wausau, Marathon Co., Wis.
Elijah Young .....	693 Mineral St., Milwaukee, Wis.
Hubert Young .....	Dalta, Mich.

#### COMPANY "E".

Captain Charles R. Nevitt .....	111 High St., Oshkosh, Wis.
First Lieutenant Henry R. Clum .....	Atlantic Building, E. Eleventh St., Washington, D. C.
Corporal Hammond S. Ames .....	Janesville, Wis.
Corporal Lucius S. Ashby .....	Winneconne, Winnebago Co., Wis.
William Warren Bradshaw .....	Washington Harbor, Door Co., Wis.
George M. Brown .....	Doty Ave., Neenah, Wis.
James H. Bliven .....	Rockford, Ill.
Sergeant Thomas E. Chabuck .....	Seymour, Ontagamie Co., Wis.
William V. Connell .....	Shiacton, Ontagamie Co., Wis.
Henry Curran .....	Stevens Point, Wis.
Sergeant George W. Dutton .....	Tipton, Cedar Co., Ia.
Z. C. Fairbanks .....	Traverse City, Mich.
William M. Folsom .....	Beloit, Wis.
Thomas Hodson .....	National Home, O.
W. H. Hoskins .....	Clintonville, Waupaco Co., Wis.
Willard Lansing .....	Neenah, Winnebago Co., Wis., Box 735.
Joseph P. Lincoln .....	Ellsworth, Ellsworth Co., Kan.
George Mader .....	Winneconne, Winnebago Co., Wis.
Sergeant Gilbert S. Main .....	Madison, Wis.
Stephen Meidam .....	Appleton, Wis.
Warren Potter .....	Aitken, Aitken Co., Minn.
Sergeant Robert W. Rainor .....	Battle Creek, Mich.
Sergeant Joseph C. Rogers .....	Quincy, Branch Co., Mich.
Corporal Marin Rhodes .....	1213 Main St., Rockford, Ill.
Lewis A. Russell .....	Cadotte, Chippewa Co., Wis.
William C. Stevens .....	Footville, Rock Co., Wis.
Sergeant James I. Towle .....	Biramwood, Shawasso Co., Wis.
Henry Wagner .....	Menomonie, Wis.



## COMPANY "F".

Captain Irving McCullough Bean.....	Milwaukee, Wis.
Captain Miles L. Butterfield.....	Waukesha, Wis.
First Lieutenant B. Franklin Cram.....	16 N. Fairchild St., Madison, Wis.
Henry Becker.....	78 Bradford St., Albany, N. Y.
James S. Botsford.....	N. Y. Life Building, Kansas City, Mo.
Francis A. Canwright.....	National Home, Leavenworth Co., Kan.
Orlando Culver.....	Waukesha, Wis.
John Blundell.....	Itasca, Douglas Co., Wis.
A. B. Dwinnell.....	Stevens Point, Wis.
Erastus J. Dartt.....	Montello, Marquette Co., Wis.
Joseph Dean.....	Madison, Wis.
James Fisher.....	136 Sheboygan St., Fond du Lac, Wis.
James C. Foster.....	Shell Rock, Butler Co., Ia.
Frank W. Fallett.....	Oshkosh, Wis.
Joseph Graves.....	Cottonwood Falls, Kan.
Edwin A. Heath.....	Iron River, Banfield Co., Wis.
Sergeant Arthur Holbrook.....	175 Eighteenth St., Milwaukee, Wis.
Hiram Hinds.....	King City, Mo.
John Hansen.....	Spooner, Wis.
George Klock.....	Waukesha, Wis.
Charles Ludwig.....	910 Garfield Ave., Milwaukee, Wis.
Francis La Due.....	Veterans' Home, Milwaukee, Wis.
H. B. Low.....	Dartford, Wis.
Andrew McFadden.....	Oconto, Wis.
S. N. Norton.....	Elmore, Minn.
George W. Rice.....	Ludington, Mich.
William Stenzel.....	Elmdale, Chase Co., Kan.
L. Stickney.....	Sheldon St., Grand Haven, Mich.
Joseph Turner.....	Waukesha, Wis.
John C. Thompson.....	Grand Junction, Green Co., Ia.
Joseph Taylor.....	Dartford, Wis.
Willard B. Ward.....	348 Virginia St., Milwaukee, Wis.

## COMPANY "G".

Captain W. H. Kees.....	Milwaukee, Wis.
Lieutenant S. Y. Naylor.....	Milwaukee, Wis.
Lieutenant R. D. Squires.....	Black River Falls, Jackson Co., Wis.
Mitchell Amon.....	1417 Washington St., Minneapolis, Minn.
Abisha Baker.....	Darlington, La Fayette Co., Wis.
Marcus S. Barnum.....	Minoqua, Oneida Co., Wis.
Sergeant Martin Bromaghin.....	Jackson, Minn.
Carter J. Brazee.....	Merrill, Lincoln Co., Wis.
Geo. E. Bissell.....	U. S. Custom House, New York, N. Y.
John B. Brown.....	Thorpe, Wis.
Sergeant B. F. Brown.....	1808 Irving Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.
Corporal John W. Curran.....	Madison, Wis.
Edward Cotter.....	Veterans' Home, Waupaca, Wis.
Caleb W. Chandler.....	Greenwood, Wis.
Sergeant Samuel S. Daggett.....	Eureka, Winnebago Co., Wis.
Noah A. Decker.....	Elliott, Ransom Co., N. D.
Fayette Dudley.....	Alma Center, Wis.
Nicholas Fifer.....	Millston, Wis.
Benjamin Hulett.....	Northfield, Wis.
Rudolph S. Hummel.....	Greenwood, Wis.
Charles Knudson.....	Campbell, Santa Clara Co., Cal.
Oliver Mulligan.....	Loyal, Wis.
Smith Owen.....	Iron River, Wis.
George M. Perry.....	Black River Falls, Jackson Co., Wis.
Hiram Perkins.....	Fitzgerald, Erwin Co., Ga.
Forger Peterson.....	Irving, Wis.
Thomas C. Ryan.....	Wausau, Wis.
Fred W. Smith.....	Adjutant General's office, War Department, Washington, D. C.





R. P. Snowden.....	Black River Falls, Jackson Co., Wis.
Benjamin Simplot .....	Black River Falls, Jackson Co., Wis.
John Smith.....	Perkinstown, Wis.
Charles Sechler.....	Sechleville, Wis.
John Sullivan .....	City Point, Wis.
Charles Taplin .....	Wautoma, Waushara Co., Wis.
James Thomas .....	Black River Falls, Jackson Co., Wis.
Moritz C. Young.....	727 Montague St., Rockford, Ill.
Frederick Woof.....?	Black River Falls, Jackson Co., Wis.

#### COMPANY "H".

Second Lieutenant Thomas J. Edwards..	Ash Ridge, Richland Co., Wis.
Second Lieutenant Horatio Leander Farr.	Madison, Wis.
Jonathan M. Adams.....	Mitchell, Davidson Co., S. D.
Sergeant Milton DeWitt Alder.....	Portage, Columbia Co., Wis.
Orlando Gardner Bills .....	Waupaca, Wis.
Adam C. Bell.....	Dry Wood, Chippewa Co., Wis.
John Borland.....	Menominee, Wis.
Corporal Andrew W. Burwell .....	Endeavor, Marquette Co., Wis.
Corporal Hiram P. Cady.....	Depere, Brown Co., Wis.
Abc Denney .....	Green Bay, Wis.
Frederick Hartson.....	3021 S. Irving Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.
Henry C. Kyger .....	National Home, Leavenworth Co., Kan.
William Kribbs.....	Galesville, Trempealeau Co., Wis.
Gilbert L. Laws .....	Lincoln, Neb.
John R. Moon.....	Richland Center, Wis.
Corporal William Morrison .....	763 St. John's Ave., Lima, O.
Corporal Thomas B. Nott.....	Calumet, O'Brien Co., Ia.
First Sergeant Franklin E. Pease .....	Menominee, Wis.
Corporal Edward C. Pratt .....	Beaver Dam, Wis.
Thomas J. Shannon ..	Beach P. O., Wis.
Edward Wessing .....	Packwaukee, Marquette Co., Wis.
Sergeant Sidney Windecker .....	36 Sheboygan St., Fond du Lac, Wis.

#### COMPANY "I".

Captain J. H. Cook .....	Appleton, Wis.
Captain Thomas Fling.....	Albany, Wis.
Second Lientenant Henry B. Mason .....	Waupun, Wis.
George W. Baker .....	Albany, Green Co., Wis.
Alexander C. Bowen.....	Danville, Wis.
John Barge.....	Gratiot, Wis.
Freeland Z. Dexter .....	Lone Rock, Richland Co., Wis.
W. H. Disbrow .....	11 Fairfield Ave., Chicago, Ill.
Joel A. Fish .....	Platteville, Wis.
Daniel Vaughan Francis.....	New Auburn, Sibley Co., Minn.
Charles H. Gilson.....	Greenbush, Sheboygan Co., Wis.
James H. Greeley.....	Starkbridge, Wis.
Milton B. Hayes.....	Crookston, Polk Co., Minn.
Oliver P. Harwood.....	Plainfield, Waushara Co., Wis.
William T. Hopkins .....	Stockton, Ill.
Peter Hong.....	Argyle, Wis.
Corporal Oscar Johnson.....	Brotherstown, Calumet Co., Wis.
Yates T. Lacey .....	National Home, Leavenworth Co., Kan.
Ezra Milks .....	National Home, Leavenworth Co., Kan.
Corporal William H. Meade.....	Fond du Lac, Wis.
John Nobles .....	Gratiot, Wis.
Charles E. Perkins .....	Gratiot, Wis.
Thomas A. Ross .....	Belleville, Dane Co., Wis.
Joseph S. Schimton.....	Eau Claire, Wis.
Corporal Elliott Shadbolt.....	Brooklyn, Powshick Co., Ia.
Corporal David Slowhower .....	Warren, Jo Daviess Co., Ill.
Henry Tipp, Sr.....	Savanna, Ill.
Henry Tipp, Jr. ....	Gratiot, La Fayette Co., Wis.



Herod W. True .....	Gratiot, La Fayette Co., Wis.
Sercelleaus J. Webster .....	Lamont, La Fayette Co., Wis.
Sergeant George F. West .....	Darlington, La Fayette Co., Wis.
Jacob Willson .....	Fort Wayne, Ind.
William Zimmermann .....	Taycheedah, Fond du Lac Co., Wis.

# COMPANY "K".

Captain Shedrach A. Hall .....	Wood Lake, Minn.
Lieutenant Philetus R. Tiffany .....	Taycheedah, Fond du Lac Co., Wis.
Henry Braker .....	Downsville, Dunn Co., Wis.
Corporal Levi M. Butler .....	Berlin, Green Lake Co., Wis.
Corporal James H. Carter .....	Veterans' Home, Wapaca, Wis.
Cooper Cassidy .....	National Home, O.
William Calkins .....	Palmyra, Mich.
John A. Fillmore .....	Hortonville, Ontagamie Co., Wis.
Barney Himmelsbach .....	Chippewa Falls, Wis.
Dwight L. Hazen .....	Eau Claire, Wis.
Albertus Jordan .....	Winnebago City, Minn.
William R. Knoll .....	Omro, Winnebago Co., Wis.
Corporal George H. LeFevre .....	Shiacton, Wis.
Jeremiah Merritt .....	Gravesville, Calumet Co., Wis.
Henry Rohrer .....	820 Fifth St., Milwaukee, Wis.
William Schiesel .....	470 Fifteenth St., Milwaukee, Wis.
Samuel Thompson .....	Coloma Station, Waushara Co., Wis.
Samuel Welch .....	Baraboo, Sauk Co., Wis.





## NOTICE!

**T**HE officers of the Association have done all that they could during the past year to secure additional names to the roster of the living members of the regiment, and it gives them pleasure to be able to furnish a much larger list of members than was contained in our last report.

It is earnestly desired that every member should look over the list as published in this report, and if any name is omitted that he has knowledge of that he send the same to the Secretary with the address and company membership of such member.

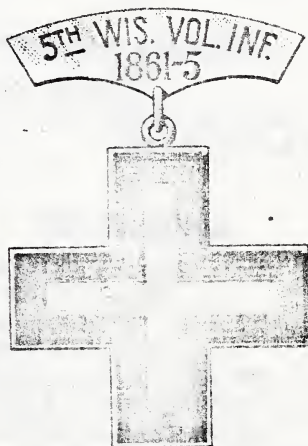
Due notice will be sent by mail to every member of our next meeting, whenever it shall be called; and it is earnestly hoped that every member of the Association will make an earnest effort to be present.

GEO. B. ENGLE, JR., Sec.,  
142 Washington St., CHICAGO



5349.963

# Report of the Proceedings of 5th Wisconsin Vol. Infantry



COMPLIMENTS OF  
GEO. D. FINGLE, JR.,  
142 WASHINGTON STREET,  
CHICAGO, ILL.

Sixteenth Annual Reunion, held at Milwaukee,  
Wisconsin, Tuesday and Wednesday, May twenty-  
seventh and twenty-eighth, nineteen hundred and two





# **OFFICERS**

## **ELECTED FOR THE CURRENT YEAR**

### **Officers**

CAPTAIN IRVING M. BEAN, President, Milwaukee, Wis.  
DAVID W. HOWIE, Vice-President, Milwaukee, Wis.  
GEO. B. ENGLE, JR., Secretary and Treasurer, 142 Wash-  
ington St., Chicago.  
COLONEL JAMES M. BULL, Chaplain, Pipestone, Minn.

### **Executive Committee**

IRVING M. BEAN, Milwaukee  
DAVID W. HOWIE, Milwaukee  
GEO. B. ENGLE, JR., Chicago

### **Vice-Presidents**

JAMES S. ANDERSON, Co. "A"  
OSCAR H. PIERCE, Co. "B"  
J. C. IVERSON, Co. "C"  
BEN SMITH, Co. "D"  
CHAS. R. NEVITT, Co. "E"  
MILES L. BUTTERFIELD, Co. "F"  
WM. H. KEES, Co. "G"  
ABRAM DENNY, Co. "H"  
JACOB COOK, Co. "I"  
HENRY ROHRER, Co. "K"

### **Honorary Members**

MAJOR-GENERAL WM. F. SMITH, Philadelphia  
GENERAL CHARLES S. McENTEE, Chicago  
COLONEL CHARLES A. CLARK, Cedar Rapids, Ia.  
CAPTAIN JAMES D. CAMPBELL, Philadelphia





MARYES HOUSE.

Sunken Road in the foreground.







#### SUNKEN ROAD.

From the front of Maryes House, Looking south. Retaining wall at the right is wall in front of Maryes House. Retaining wall at the left with the wire fence above shows a part of what was the "stone wall" at the lower side of the road.

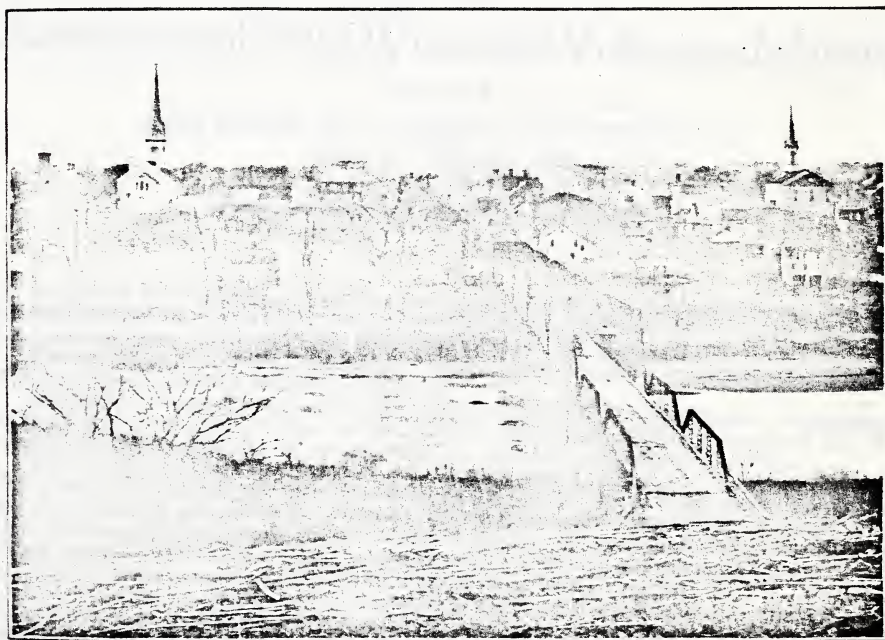




War time photograph of the Confederate side of the "Stone Wall," and the "Sunken Road," in front of Maryes Heights, Fredericksburg, Va., May 3rd, 1863, where the Fifth Wisconsin and the Sixth Maine Regiment crossed and captured it. The Federal wounded and dead had undoubtedly been removed when this photograph was taken.







**VIEW OF FREDERICKSBURG**

**From Stafford's Heights on the east side of Rappahannock River; Maryes  
House faintly seen in the left upper corner.**



*Copy Association,  
Jan. 20, 1903.*

## PROCEEDINGS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING ❧ ❧

OF THE

# Association of Fifth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry

HELD AT

MILWAUKEE, WIS., TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY  
MAY 27 AND 28, 1902

Rooms of Military Order of the Loyal Legion

Pursuant to a call issued by the executive committee, the association met at this time in annual reunion, in the rooms of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, Academy of Music Building, 381 Milwaukee Street, Milwaukee, Wis.

The meeting was called to order by its president, Captain Irving M. Bean, who addressed the comrades present as follows:

Chairman—Bean—Comrades of the ever glorious old 5th Wisconsin, it becomes my duty, as the presiding officer of this society, to call this meeting to order, and to extend to you the greeting of the officers and resident members of this city.

We are sorry of course, that you are not assembled in larger numbers; but are very glad that the numbers are as large as they are. There is gladness for those who are present, and sorrow for those who are absent. Our minds, I fancy, are filled with conflicting emotions—a smile for those whom we have the pleasure of taking by the hand, and a tear for those whom infirmities, or long distance from this city, or other causes, have disabled them from being present.

I do not care to indulge in any sepulchral remarks. We know well enough how rapidly the days and years have flown since we were young soldiers—how time has sped by with noiseless flight; and we know well enough what the course of nature is, and sadly enough that our meetings must necessarily, by an inexorable law of nature, be attended by fewer and fewer. But never mind these considerations. Let us be thankful and joyful that we are here, and most of us in good health, and in good spirits, and glad of the opportunity to greet and meet the men we knew as boys; and glad to know that fate has been kind to them, and that they are in good bodily health, and that their affairs are prosperous.

I suppose, gentlemen, that other wars will come. I am not of that optimistic class who believe that the Angel of Peace is soon to spread her wings over the wide world. Men are still greedy and selfish. Rulers and nations are ambitious, and I suppose that conflicts will continue for a long time to come; and it is not improbable even that this nation may again be engaged sometime—I hope in the distant future—in warfare. But I believe, that whatever may come in the future, there never will be a war so important in all its relations and bearings upon the future of this republic, as the glorious one in which you and I were engaged. The failure of that effort on the part of the government meant the extinction of this fair republic: its name blotted from the list of nations. Its success meant that it was to rise to the very apex of all nations, and stand today, as it does, at the head and front of them all. It is therefore a cause of great satisfaction that our efforts were not in vain. If after having made the sacrifices that we did, and achieved the triumph that we did, the nation had tottered along in its career, and fallen again to disruption and failure, we would not have the cause of joy and triumph that we do today.





Gentlemen, it was not my purpose to make any remarks, but this indiscrete young man here, (indicating the secretary) on my right, in his order of business, had this down, without ever apprising me of his intention: "Address by the president."

If you will consider the desultory observations that I have just made to have filled that part or the programme, I shall be very much obliged to you. (Applause.)

Chairman Bean—The next order of business is the election of officers for the ensuing year. What is your pleasure?

Comrade DeClark—Mr. President, as the first in order, I move that the president for the time being be elected to succeed himself.

The motion was seconded by many voices.

Secretary Engle—Comrades, were it not for the seeming necessity of the formality being gone through with, I feel that it would not require a vote to enable me to declare your choice for president, to preside over your deliberations, and perform such other duties as belong to that office for the current year. You have heard the motion that has been made and seconded by many voices—those of you who are desirous of the reelection of Comrade Captain Bean, as our president will please manifest it by rising vote.

Secretary Engle—Comrade Bean, during the year that has passed we have been honored by having your services as our presiding officer, and, Sir, it gives me very great pleasure to inform you that you have been again unanimously chosen to the presidency of this association for the current year. (Applause.)

Chairman Bean—Gentlemen, last year I had occasion to express my sentiments regarding a similar action on your part, and if you will consider them repeated on this occasion I shall be very much obliged to you.

It goes without saying that I regard it as a compliment of the very highest order to be elected as president of this society. Of course there is nothing important about it in the current affairs of life. But it is an extreme satisfaction to know that one who in his younger days was in very intimate association with a large body of men, and in such association as enabled them to study and understand his true character, that these same men in our older days, should reaffirm their friendship for him. It is an easy matter in the daily walks of life to veil and dissimulate, to a certain extent, one's true character. I don't know as there is any objection to it. The conventionalities of human life make it somewhat necessary. We don't need to wear our hearts upon our sleeves—we don't commune without constraint with each other in these latter days, in these piping times of peace. But in those trying days, that is just what we did—we wore our hearts upon our sleeves, and in communion with each other, we told all we felt and knew. So the point is that we know each other very well, very well; and hence, as I said, I regard it as a compliment of the very highest order to be honored by being elected, at this distant time, as the president of this society. I thank you very much. (Applause.)

Comrade Pierce—I move that the officers who served the society during the last year, viz., vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and executive committee be elected for the ensuing year.

The motion of Comrade Pierce was seconded and carried.

Chairman Bean—The next in order is the report of the secretary and treasurer.

Secretary Engle—I would offer the report of our last reunion as published as my report of the proceedings of the last meeting. The secretary made an itemized statement of all receipts and expenditures during the year, and showing a balance due the treasurer of \$16.06.

The report of the secretary and treasurer was accepted, and approved, and ordered placed on file.

The secretary reported that he had sent printed reports of last years proceedings to each member of the association, and extra copies to other members who had asked for them. That he had sent copies to the War Department, War Department Library, at Washington, to principal public libraries throughout the country, also one copy each to some sixty members of the 6th Maine Regiment, and to the officers of the association of the 49th Pennsylvania Regiment; also to many officers of the old army whose addresses he had. Reports were also sent to each of the National and State Soldiers' Homes.

Comrade Perry—It seems to me that before we go any further, that it would be a good idea to settle up the indebtedness reported as due our treasurer.

Chairman Bean—The deficiency arises from carelessness on the part of the comrades, it seems to me. Would it not be well to have some established order for raising the necessary funds?



[NOTE.—After considerable discussion on the subject of how best to raise the necessary funds required to publish and distribute the reports of our sessions the following was offered by Comrade Perry, which was adopted.]

"WHEREAS, The expenses of this association for postage, stationary, the publication of annual reports, etc., must necessarily be met and paid by its members; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That a request be sent to each and every survivor of the 5th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, at the close of the present session, asking a remittance of at least \$1.50 to be used in defraying such expenses, for which the association will mail to the donor a copy of its proceeding, and such other information as it may have relating to its subsequent annual meeting."

Chairman Bean—I have a telegram here from our beloved old commander, General Amasa Cobb, reading as follows:

"LOS ANGELES, CAL., May 26, 1902.

"CAPTAIN I. M. BEAN, AND COMRADES,

"Milwaukee, Wis.:

"All honor glory and long life to the 5th Wisconsin, and all gallant and loyal Union soldiers.

(Signed)

"AMASA COBB,

"JULIUS ENERT,

"CHARLES CHARNOCK,

"EDWARD F. CHARNOCK."

The secretary was instructed by the society to reply to the message of our comrades, and the following message was sent to them:

"MILWAUKEE, WIS., May 27, 1902.

"GENERAL AMASA COBB,

"Los Angeles, Cal.:

"Thanks for your despatch. The old 5th now in session sends to you and the other signers their kindest regards. Long may you live and prosper.

(Signed)

"GEO. B. ENGLE, JR., Secretary."

Chairman Bean—Has the secretary any thing more on his table to bring before our meeting at this time?

Secretary Engle—I have received many letters from comrades, some of which I shall read.

The first is from General McEntee, whom most of you will remember as the Quartermaster of Hancock's Brigade, and afterwards of the 2d Corps. General McEntee, became one of the best, if not the best Corps Quartermasters of the Army of the Potomac, and in him General Hancock took great pride. His letter is as follows:

"566 EAST DIVISION ST., CHICAGO, ILL., May 24, 1902.

"MR. GEO. B. ENGLE, JR., Secretary,

"Society of the 5th Wisconsin Volunteers.,

"Chicago, Ill.:

"My Dear Comrade—The invitation to meet with the Association of the 5th Wisconsin Volunteers at Milwaukee, Wis., on Tuesday, May 27, was received some days since, and at that time I promised myself the pleasure of attendance, when I hoped to meet many old comrades who I have not seen since the days we were associated together as part of the grand old 1st Brigade of the 2d Division of the 6th Army Corps, commanded by that peerless soldier, General W. S. Hancock. Since then, however, my neuralgia has taken a fresh hold of me, and leaves me in a condition utterly unfit to leave home. I am, therefore, compelled to forego the anticipated pleasure of meeting you in person, but assure you I shall be with you in spirit. I wish you a pleasant and agreeable time, and that you all will be spared to meet at these annual reunions for many years to come. Fraternally yours,

(Signed)

"CHAS. S. MCENTEE."

Your secretary sent a copy of our report to Colonel W. S. McCaskey, in command at Fort Sheridan. I knew that he was a soldier of the great war, but did not know whether he served in our old Army of the Potomac or not, it appears that he did not. His letter reads as follows:

"FORT SHERIDAN, ILL., April 11, 1902.

MR. GEO. B. ENGLE, JR., 142 Washington Street, Chicago, Ill.:

"Dear Sir—We did not serve in the same Army, as I am a Cumberland man, but we wore the same blue, and I appreciate your courtesy in sending me a copy of the proceeding of your reunion.





"I have an old soldier's fondest recollections of the time served with gallant men from your State, for we were brigaded with the 1st and 21st Wisconsin Regiments, and always felt ourselves safe when in touch with them. I was then a Pennsylvania volunteer, belonging to the 79th Regiment, and Ohioans, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvanians will always be proud of, and satisfied with the work that they did together, in many years of association. Yours truly,

(Signed)

"WM. S. McCASKEY."

"OFFICE OF J. M. ADAMS, MITCHELL, S. D., May 3, 1902.

"GEO. B. ENGLE, JR., Chicago, Ill.:

"My Dear Sir and Comrade—I am just in receipt of the proceeding of the last reunion of the old honored 5th Regiment, its history was a glorious one, and while I assisted but little in making it I am proud to be on the roll, Boice and Bobb desires me to thank you for the proceedings of the last reunion. It is splendid, and brings to the minds of the old boys of May 3, 1863, *thirty-nine years* ago today, times which tried men souls and patriotism, but in patriotism the American soldier has never been wanting. Your vivid description of that famous charge is real to life. My health is very poor and I have about made up my mind to go and spend the summer in Washington State, on Puget Sound, but mail directed here will find me, I would love dearly to meet with you in Milwaukee, on May 27, but I fear I shall not be there but kindly remember me to the comrades. The old 5th, never in its younger days, done much bugling of its part in the drama, it was always bashful, and I am glad that this report is so full of its history in one of the most trying scenes of the war.

"Very truly yours,

"J. M. ADAMS."

The next two are from members of the old 6th Maine:

"GUILFORD, ME., April 13, 1902.

"GEO. B. ENGLE, JR., Chicago, Ill.:

"Dear Comrade—I am in receipt of the report of the 'Proceedings of the 5th Wisconsin Infantry, 15th annual reunion.' As I read it, I again lived over those old scenes of strife. I found myself again, in memory, at Williamsburg, Maryes Heights, Antietam, Gettysburg, Rappahannock Station, etc., and always by our side was that grand old regiment, the 5th Wisconsin, our twin brother, especially do I remember their deeds of valor at Rappahannock Station, as I lay within a few yards of the Confederate earth works, with two bullet holes through my thigh watching that terrible struggle.

"There was a tie of friendship formed between the 5th Wisconsin and 6th Maine, during those years that time can never sever, and that I think will exist in eternity, at least I hope so, we are growing old, and dropping out one after another, soon the last roll will be called when there will be a grand reunion of the old 5th Wisconsin and the 6th Maine, and there will be full companies; those that were left on the Southern battle fields will be there, for I believe such deeds and sacrifices as they made will not go unrewarded.

"Remember me to the boys of the grand old 5th.

"Many thanks for your report, and I shall be pleased to hear from the survivors in the future.

"Very truly yours,

(Signed)

"L. H. WHITTIER.

"COMPANY 'H' 6th Maine "

"PORTLAND, ME., May 3, 1902.

"GEO. B. ENGLE, JR., Secretary:

"Dear Comrade—I have the report of the reunion of the gallant old 5th Wisconsin and I am always glad to hear from them.

"You suggest that I send you some memory of our service for the next meeting of your association, to be held at Milwaukee in May.

"I am thinking of Cedar Creek, being reminded of it by Comrade Perry's address published in the report you sent me.

"On the morning of October 19, 1864, I got up quicker than I ever did before and probably ever shall again. On that day the battle of Cedar Creek took place, and I happened to be there. We went to bed the night before not thinking that we were in the slightest danger of a raid by the 'Johnnies' during the night. General Early and his troops swooped down upon us and at day break we were awakened by the bullets singing right through our tents.

"I tell you I did not waste any time in getting out that morning. We did not stop for any extended toilet preparations, nor did we pick up our effects. It was a case where every man grabbed his musket and got out just as quick as his legs would



carry him. It was a hot day from start to finish. The 'Rebs' had taken us completely by surprise, and we did not have time to pull ourselves together. We made just as good a fight as we could, but still they drove us about twelve miles back towards Winchester. Then General Sheridan put in an appearance, the boys got together, the troops were reorganized, and the tide of the battle was turned the other way. We had been chased back pretty fast, but as soon as our troops were reorganized we chased them back over the same ground fully as fast as they had driven us a few hours before. We recaptured nearly all the prisoners that they had taken, we got back all our artillery and a considerable portion of theirs, and that night we pitched our camp on the identical spot that we were driven away from so uncerimoniously early in the morning.

"I was wounded in the head during that fight, and while the old wound does not cause me a great deal of inconvenience still I have to be very careful of myself. The heat always effects me during the summer months and I have to keep out of the sun all that I can. I have been on the police force here since March 20, 1876, and have done duty at night since that time, solely on account of the condition that the wound left me in I cannot do day duty.

"I have heard it said that Sheridan never made that ride, but such people do not know what they are talking about. He made the ride and I saw him.

"Hoping that your association may have a joyful reunion, and with the assurance that the old 6th Maine boys will always remember the 5th Wisconsin with affection.

I am, sincerely yours,

(Signed)

"ED. K. HEATH."

Chairman Bean—A few month's ago, our secretary mailed a copy of our last reports to General William F. Smith. "Baldy Smith", whom we all remember with great pride, as being one of the foremost general officers during the whole war, and he also mailed a copy to Captain Jessie D. Campbell. All of you don't remember Campdell, but I do very distinctly. He commanded a company of the 49th Pennsylvania, one of the regiments forming our brigade, and I want to say a word about him that will be proper in connection with something that will be said this afternoon in connection with the battle of Williamsburg.

The facts, according to my memory, are about as follows: I have interrogated several of the comrades, and we don't all quite agree as to the details. Which, of course is not strange.

Our division, under General Smith, had crossed the Chicahominy, that is we had gone over onto the Richmond side of the Chicahominy swamp, and the 5th Corps, under command of General Fitz John Porter, was on the other side of the Chicahominy, and you boys used to think it was the purpose of General McClellan to give the regulars, being under command of Fitz John Porter, the easiest and softest place, and he put them in the rear. But the wily Stonewall Jackson, instead of attacking the Army of the Potomac in front, took it in his head to go away around the right flank, and we had the fight known in the war histories as Mechanicsville, in which Stonewall succeeded, and the next day attacked Fitz John Porter very furiously. It was a bloody fight, known as the battle of Gaines Mills. Now we had been encamped there, my recollection is, for at least ten days, or such a matter, when the trouble commenced. You will remember we had an interesting picket line. There was a strip of woods right in front, a narrow wood belt, and so friendly did the pickets on either side get that they held conversations with each other, and the Johnie Rebs, at one time, sent over a yellow dog with a yellow ribbon around his neck, and some tobacco with the compliments of the 5th North Carolina. Our boys captured the dog, and tied some sugar and hard tack around his neck and sent him back. And so such kind of amusing communication was kept up for several days, but finally there was trouble. We had some large guns, great big black looking things. [A Comrade—"Siege Parrots."] One day, about night we were attacked. I remember very distinctly we had been there all the afternoon, if not all day. Colonel Cobb came along the line, and said that we would not have to stay much longer; we might go back into camp. He had no more than uttered the words than an assault was made. We repulsed the enemy, and went back into camp. The next morning the enterprising chaps on the other side had gotten the line of our company streets, and they sent shells down there, whereupon we got out. I distinctly remember the activity of the band. (Laughter.)

"We went back about a mile and halted for an hour or two, but Captain Campbell, whose short communication I am about to read, remained behind with two companies. He was attacked by the Confederates, and in a most gallant way repulsed them, and captured an officer, Colonel Lamar. It is a pleasure to recall this incident.





And it is little incidents that interest us. We are not here to discuss the movement of divisions, corps and armies. The fact is we didn't know much about them. We do know what occurred in our own organization. We remember General Hancock in particular. General Hancock asked Colonel Lannar who was in his command over there. I remember that the colonel shook his head declining to reply. The General directed Surgeon Castleman to place this wounded Confederate officer in the ambulance. Whereupon Dr. Castleman commenced to discuss with General Hancock, the propriety of whether the ambulance could not better be used for our own men. General Hancock was furious, and simply ignored Dr. Castleman and said to Colonel Cobb, "wont you send me a doctor?" (Laughter.)

"Of course you know all about General Baldy Smith. Our secretary, in a thoughtful way, sent our little books to both of these officers. I was down in Philadelphia a few days ago, and, with Judge Campbell, called upon General Smith. We had a delightful call. The General is well with a mind and memory still unimpaired.

"I will read Captian Campbell's letter first, and then will read one that I have received from General Smith.

"LAW DEPARTMENT      "PHILADELPHIA & READING RAILWAY CO.

"JAMES D. CAMPBELL,      "GENERAL OFFICE, READING TERMINAL.

"General Solicitor.

"PHILADELPHIA, April 24, 1902.

"CAPTAIN IRVING M. BEAN,

"Pabst Building, Milwaukee, Wis.:

"My Dear Companion, Comrade, Friend—I have your letter of the 22d instant, informing me of the intended meeting of the survivors of the glorious old 5th Wisconsin on the 27th. Kindly convey to them, each and all, my warmest greeting. I am proud to have been their comrade.

"I have time but for a word—it will tell nothing to you that is new—none know better than you that you have so borne yourselves as to deserve the name and fame you won in the storm and tempest of battle; but you may not know how wide and general the knowledge and memory of your deeds have extended and prevails. During all the years that have passed since I saw the 5th in serried ranks, I have met many survivors of the armies of the Union—from all armies—from all ranks—many of high rank, and I hazzard nothing in saying, that with each and all who have ever heard of the old 6th Corps, and its gallant deeds, the 5th Wisconsin is, coupled with the 6th Maine, of the same brigade, and has been held to represent the highest and most perfect type and example of American soldiery.

"That a share of the glory of your achievements is enjoyed by your comrades of the other commands who had the good fortune to serve at your side, however unworthily, should be and is most cheerfully and gratefully acknowledged:

"With the kindest of greetings and best wishes for your welfare, individually and collectively, I subscribe myself, your comrade and friend,

"J. D. CAMPBELL,

"Late Captain, 49th Pennsylvania Volunteers."

General Smith writes as follows:

"1013 CLINTON STREET, PHILADELPHIA, April 24, 1902.

"DEAR CAPTAIN BEAN:

"I was very glad to get your letter this morning, for I am always glad to hear from any of the 5th Wisconsin. Of course I recollect you. You did something to compel my admiration to make me recollect you, but the incident has faded with the lapse of years. Your name and rank, however, still are vivid in my memory. I should like very much to be at your next meeting but the trip is too much for me.

"I must have been putting on airs to Captain Campbell, and trying to pass off as ready for the next war to have been reported by him as to such good health. He looks as active as ever and would probably be as quick on the skirmish line or in a charge as ever. Long may he wave.

"Your regiment was always a great favorite with me. I once thought that I had lost the regiment and I was killing mad. I, after trying at Williamsburg to get my division sent round by the right, got authority to send one brigade to the dam, and first fort on the right. I selected Hancock's brigade, gave him two extra regiments, told him to go as far as he could and then send for aid and I would come with the rest of the division. Hancock sent for reinforcements, and three times I started when I heard the firing from your battle. I got nearly to the dam and was ordered back by three aides in rapid succession. I thought then that I had lost my brigade, and inasmuch as I had positively disobeyed orders at the outset, I



thought you would go to prison while I went north on an indefinite leave. In talking over the fight afterwards with General Joe Johnston, I told him that had I taken my whole division in the morning I would have hustled him out of Williamsburg or captured his troops, to which he assented. Your splendid fight gave us the only show of victory that day and saved very much which you never knew. Had we had four instead of three corps commanders on the field that day our whole force would probably have been captured.

"All glory and honor to the brave old 5th Wisconsin. There were seven other regiments in my division which gave the division its reputation for being one of the best divisions in the army. You can pick them out as well as I can for you know which regiments you felt assured of when they were with you in a fight.

"With good wishes to you and all the regiment, and long life to Colonel Cobb,  
I am always yours sincerely,  
(Long applause.)

WM. F. SMITH."

Chairman Bean—I am reminded by General Smith's allusion to other good regiments of an incident at the battle of Williamsburg.

You remember we were out in front of the rest of the brigade. There was a square redoubt, flanked with other regiments. There was much confusion. The attack upon us was unexpected, and very unwelcomed; it was sudden and there was confusion. Our skirmishers were out in front; our own troops behind. You could not fire upon the enemy, who had appeared, because we intervened between them and our own troops.

I remember of looking back and seeing the long, glistening line of bayonets of the 6th Maine, and felt "sure", just exactly the feeling suggested by General Smith. Their ranks were big, serried and strong. It was a large regiment. It seemed to be in splendid order, and I said to myself, "Johnny Reb, you wait till those fellows get after you." I looked again, and to my surprise, I saw the line of bayonets turning and the regiment seemed to be marching in retreat. And my heart failed. I thought we were gone. Again, I looked to the rear, and I soon discovered that they had stopped again, and I concluded rightly, they were getting better footing; and there they stood ready to receive our friends, the enemy. We finally unmasked our own troops, and connected with the balance of the troops of Hancock's brigade. Every man was in his place. There were three lines of men in the redoubt, the rear men simply loading their muskets and passing them to the front. The fort was flanked on both sides by our own troops. You can easily see what terrific force was bearing down upon the enemy when we got back in place. That accounted for the brilliant success of General Hancock on that day, and the utter rout and defeat of the enemy. (Applause.)

A Comrade—Mr. President, a gentleman has come into the room, and I wish to introduce him to you, to be welcomed here. Comrade Saunderson, chaplain of the Loyal Legion.

Chairman Bean—How do you do? I will be very pleased to introduce to the members, Chaplain Saunderson. Won't you come up here?

Comrade Saunderson—No, I prefer to remain here. I happened to be here, and I only came in feeling that I had a kinship and birthright in this regiment. I am exceedingly glad to be here. I have just returned from the East, from that wondrous city, finding there my friends that I hadn't seen for forty-two years, attending a reunion of my first command, and celebrating the forty-first anniversary of the 27th of April, 1861. I remember of being stationed one time in Boston, and I found that there was a regiment there that was some of the time down with the 5th Wisconsin.

Chairman Bean—They were almost as good a regiment as the 5th.

Comrade Saunderson—I think they were what they were by the grace of old association with Wisconsin soldiers. I was with a Pennsylvania command, and I think that I am better for having had these recent years contact with so many Wisconsin soldiers. (Laughter and applause.)

At 12:05 the meeting adjourned to meet at 2 o'clock P. M.

---

## FIRST DAY'S SESSION.

MAY 27, 2 P. M.

Chairman Bean—Miscellaneous business will be in order. If there is not any miscellaneous business, we will listen to Judge Anderson.





Comrade Anderson—The topic I have chosen for this paper is "Through the Wilderness with Grant." I selected that particular part of our regimental history for the reason that it is a part of our history of which comparatively little is stated in the reports and publications of the period. Our losses were so great and the change of officers arising from the death of General Sedgwick, was such that the command of our brigade was changed three or four times in that period. The only report which was made was made by an officer at the close of the campaign, who commanded the brigade only a very short time, and hardly any part of that time the period when we were the most actively engaged with the enemy. So that the history will be comparatively new to those who have made something of a study of the regimental history. It is drawn from my letters home, from my diary which I kept and from comparison with the official reports—such reports as I was able to obtain, and which were very meager indeed.

## THROUGH THE WILDERNESS WITH GRANT.

BY JUDGE J. S. ANDERSON.

Our (the 6th) Corps remained in winter quarters, to which we had returned after the Mine Run campaign in the latter part of December, previous. In the mean time Grant, the "Silent Man", had come to us from the West. He was the commander of all the armies of the nation, subject only to the constitutional commander-in-chief, the President of the United States; but made the Army of the Potomac his especial charge.

Under his supervision, some radical changes were made. The five corps were consolidated in three, the 2d, 5th and 6th retaining their organizations as corps d'armee. (It is said this was determined upon before Grant came.) In the changes made the old 3d Division of the 6th Corps was broken up, its brigades being assigned to the 1st and 2d Divisions, while the 3d Division of the 3d Corps was permanently annexed to the 6th Corps and became its 3d Division, commanded by Brigadier General, afterwards Major General James Ricketts. Our 1st Division, General Wright's, was strengthened by Shaler's brigade, and the 2d Division by the brigades of Wheaton and Eustis.

Thus the corps, as it started on the spring campaign of 1864, comprised ten brigades in its three divisions, of which the new 3d Division had only two. Orders were issued about the middle of April to get ready for the spring campaign, and all non-combatants, superfluous baggage, sutler's stores and other *impedimenta* were sent to the rear.

By the first day of May we were under orders to be ready to march at a moments notice. On the night of the third we were ordered to move at daybreak.

Reveille sounded at half-past two next morning, and at half-past four, after a hasty breakfast, we moved out from our camps, swung into line and headed straight over the fields towards the Rapidan till we struck the road to Germanna Ford into which we filed and held our course to the river.

It was a beautiful day, a commingling of spring and early summer weather, the birds were singing in the shrubs and trees, which were just tinged with the light green of the opening leaves, and the early flowers were blooming by the wayside.

A number of recruits had come to the various regiments of the corps, including our own, and these had to learn by experience what getting ready for a campaign meant. Before we had marched many miles the sun came out bright and clear from a cloudless sky. It was hot and kept growing hotter, and soon the recruits began to shed their superfluous baggage. The ground was blue with winter overcoats, extra blankets and clothing were tossed beside the road, extra shoes and patent leather boots went flying through the air and by mid-day the recruits had acquired the knowledge of the old men, that on a campaign, hardtack, ammunition and a rubber blanket is all the load a soldier can carry to advantage.

A march of about sixteen miles brought us to Germania Ford where we crossed about half-past three in the afternoon, and after a march of about two miles south-east of the river we bivouacked for the night in some open woods west of the Germanna plank road. We were on the extreme right of the army. Companies "A", "C", "I" and "D" were detailed for picket duty and spent the night in the woods on guard, but were relieved at day light and rejoined the regiment.

Early next morning, I should judge between six and seven o'clock, after we had had our coffee, we again moved and had gone but a short distance before we





**TWO VIEWS OF A LIVE WHITE OAK TREE SHOT OFF WITH MUSKET BALLS**

at Spottsylvania, May 12th, 1864. This tree stood between the lines  
at the point known as the "Bloody Angle." The dimen-  
sions of the tree are certified to as follows:

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION  
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM.  
WASHINGTON, D. C., July 18, 1902.

DEAR SIR—In compliance with your request, please find herewith dimensions of the  
Spottsylvania tree: Height 5 feet and four inches, average diameter, 22 inches, circum-  
ference at base 66 inches.

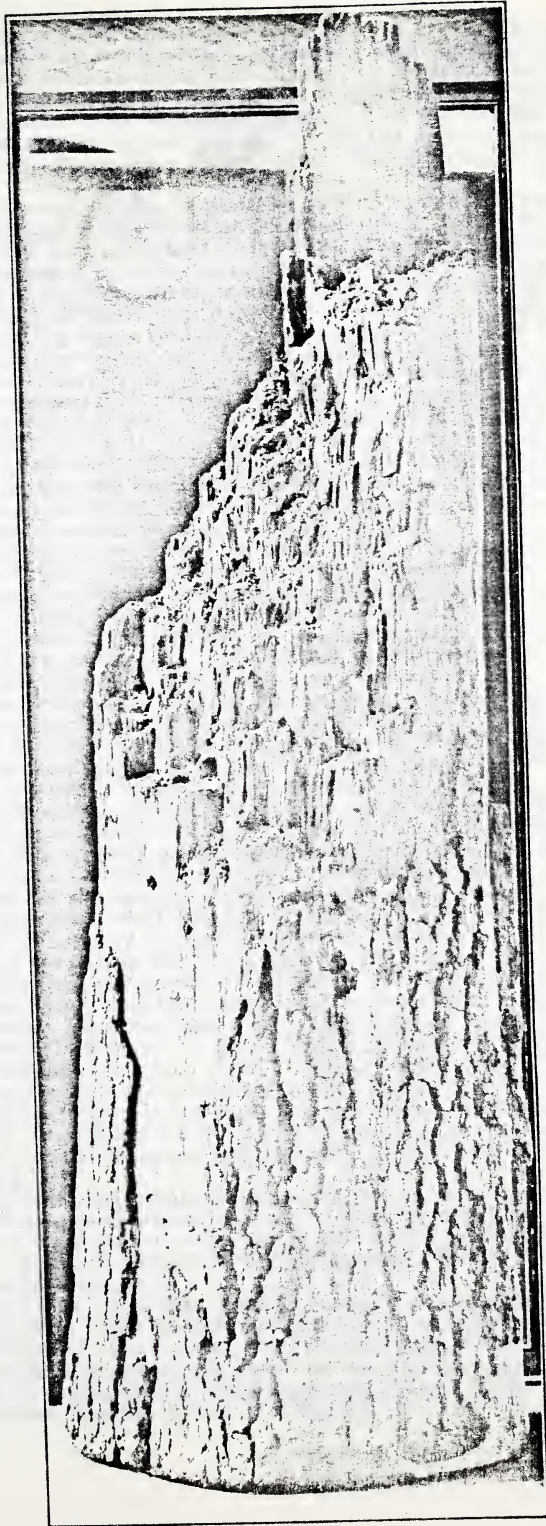
Very respectfully yours,  
(Signed) W. H. HOLMES.

• Head Curator, Department of Anthropology.

The Fifth Wisconsin fought in front of the "Bloody Angle" from  
6:30 A. M. until 8 o'clock P. M., May 12th, 1864.









deployed into line of battle and pushed forward with great difficulty through dense woods and thickets of scrub pine, interspersed with ravines full of greenbriars. We had struck the enemy in some force, and as we pushed on, we heard in our front and to the left a steadily increasing crackle of musketry as our skirmishers crowded the enemy back upon their supports. Away off to the left the roll of musketry increasing constantly in volume and the occasional boom of the heavy guns, told the news that the 2d and 5th Corps, under Hancock and Warren were heavily engaged.

We pushed forward in line of battle by alternate advances and rests until about ten o'clock, making a couple of miles, I should judge, in this way, when the regiment was marched out to the right of the advancing lines. As we moved in column along what appeared to be an old wood road, shots from a rebel skirmish line struck into the head of the column, a couple of men fell and the order was given to deploy forward quickly. Without any particular formation or tactics Company "A" pushed out spreading like a fan as the boys rushed from tree to tree and in less time than it takes to tell, a good, strong fighting skirmish line was formed and pushed the rebels back. Company "A" was followed as skirmishers by the other three right companies and Company "C", and we forced the enemy steadily back, losing some men in the operation. After we had advanced some distance into the woods, we halted and the direction of the lines was changed. The five companies, "A", "F", "D", "G" and "C", under the command of Major Totten, forming a line of flankers on the extreme right flank of the whole army. As soon as we were in order, we resumed our advance in a long line, man following man at regular intervals through the brush and woods.

In the mean time the other five companies, under Captain Butterfield, had returned to the brigade line and early in the afternoon became hotly engaged, losing quite a number of officers and men. Lieutenant Mills, of Company "E" was killed; Captain Bissell and Lieutenant Turnbull wounded in this afternoon's fighting with the regiment. Our regimental loss in this day's operation is given in the report of the Adjutant General of the State, as 104 killed and wounded, on what authority I do not know, but I think it is not exaggerated. The whole brigade was in action and our comrades of the 6th Maine, I am told, also lost quite heavily.

The writer was with the little force under Major Totten and saw and took part in one of the most brilliant affairs in the history of the regiment. About two or three o'clock in the afternoon the enemy made a heavy attack on the advancing lines away to our front and left. The flankers halted, faced to the right, and soon a bickering fire came traveling down the line. In a few minutes we were skirmishing hotly with a force which was working around to attack our right flank and rear. It so happened that where the two right companies of the 5th Wisconsin line were halted, the woods were more open than common in that wilderness, and the timber larger, and behind the trees and logs our boys easily beat off the attack on our front. Bushwhacking was always a strong point with the 5th Wisconsin. The flankers ahead of us were not so fortunate. The line was broken through by a heavy rush, and turning to the left toward us, the rebels commenced rolling us up. The boys were busy loading and firing, doing effective work upon a gray line of battle which they had fought to a stand still on the rising ground across a ravine which lay between. Suddenly the quick sharp tones of Major Totten were heard: "Fall back men! This way! *Quick! Quick! THIS WAY! THIS WAY!*" We turned at the sound although not given in strict military style, just in time to see a line of rebels breaking through the brush, not twenty yards away and the major and half a dozen men getting down to the right and rear with more haste than dignity.

The most of Companies "A" and "F" got back on the keen run to an old wood road that ran through the woods in a direction parallel to the line on which we had been advancing.

Here Lieutenant Gibson gathered about a dozen men and got them into a line facing the direction from which we came. Some men of Company "F" joined us, until there were eighteen or twenty stretched out in a thin skirmish line. He gave the command "Forward, March" and we commenced pushing our way slowly back through the tangled woods.

In the mean time something was happening among the boys who had been left on the flanking line. The rebel line of attack did not reach much, if any, beyond that part of the line where Company "A" and a part of Company "F" stood. As we went to the rear the attacking rebels followed us sharply, in a direction which led them away from the others of the regiment. Then Major Totten did a daring thing. He ordered Captain White, of Company "D", and Hilton, of Company "G",







to push their companies forward on a left wheel using the end of the broken line as a pivot. This brought him squarely on the rear of the force we had been fighting across the ravine. So occupied were they in rejoicing over our disappearance from their front, and in fussing over a few prisoners they had picked up, that they never saw the line of skirmishers in blue stealing silently behind them, and taking post behind the trees not more than one hundred feet away. Not a shot was fired until the net was closed. Then Captain White strode out from behind a tree and in a loud voice said: "Who commands these men?" A major in grey uniform answered, "I do, I'll take your sword, sir". "Not by a long sight". "I have you surrounded. Order your men to throw down their arms or I'll open fire on you", was the reply. "I reckon not, Yank; the boot is on the other foot, hand me your sword".

Captain White wheeled around and resorted to a masterly piece of bluff; waving his hand to a sergeant he said in a commanding voice, "Sergeant go back and tell the colonel to forward the battalion."

Just at this instant those of us who had been pushed through the woods on a run were feeling our way back again slowly, caught sight of the goups in grey. We were tired and in ugly mood and needed and asked no order to pitch in; half a dozen rifles cracked out and two or three men dropped, hit hard. At the same instant the rebel major glancing in his rear saw the line of silent men behind the trees with their rifles pointed in his direction, waiting the word to fire and watching for the first sign of a hostile act. He shouted, "We are surrounded, throw down your arms, men". "We surrender", he said to White. As the men threw down their arms our boys closed in on them. Someone, I think it was Sergeant Major Jim Strong, came running to us regardless of our fire, and shouted to stop firing, as the enemy had surrendered. We closed up to them and scooped in the 25th Virginia Regiment entire with their colors. We tuned over to the provost marshal 280 prisoners in one squad, and squads were picked up in the woods which brought the number up to 300 or over.

When we consider that the five companies would not average 30 men each, we may well claim that the job was a neat one.

I was with the squad that took the prisoners to the rear, and by the time we had got back towards where we supposed the regiment was it was pitch dark. So a number of us found a fire down in a little ravine, cooked some coffee and fried some hard tack, and lay down on the ground and slept the sleep of the weary till day broke.

As soon as it was light we got up, and dashed some cool water from the swampy ravine in our faces, made some more coffee, and trudged forward to where the regiment lay. As usual, it was snug up to the fighting line.

I found the regiment lying in ravine at the foot of a wooded slope that led up to some open woods or cleared land. I do not know which, as the rebel skirmishers were in the woods near by and prevented extended observations in that direction. They had two or three guns in there close by, and had our range to a dot, and we had to hug the ground tight to escape the grape and canister. In spite of all we could do, several of the boys were hit, though I have no recollections of any being killed that day. Orderly Sergeant Enert of my Company caught a grape shot on the U.S. buckle of his belt, where it embedded itself in the lead backing. He rolled over and over gasping for breath, and when he got it he screamed with the pain it caused him. He beat Jim Corbet in the discovery of the effect of a solar plexus blow by over thirty years.

Late in the forenoon we move back a few rods, forming our line on higher ground. About three in the afternoon General Sedgwick came up to our line and ordered us to pile up logs, brush and anything handy to make a breastwork, remarking to some of the officers, "they'll try you hard about sundown."

The boys caught the remark, and we went to work with a will, and piled up brush, rotten logs, and everything of the sort we could get hold of. And then, digging with hatchets, tin plates, bayonets, we threw some earth against it, and in less than half an hour we had a good serviceable rifle pit, which we improved still further by a constant use of the pioneers' shovels.

Just as the sun went down behind the forest trees, and it began to grow dusky in the gloomy thickets below and in front of us, a sharp rattle of musketry broke out on the left and in front of the regiment. Out skirmishers came running in a moment after. "They're coming, boys, lots of them, in line of battle." Major Totten had walked up and down the line a few minutes before, and talked with the men. "Hold your fire, men! Don't waste a shot on the skirmishers. If they come



over, run a bayonet through them if they don't behave, but when the line of battle breaks through that brush pour it into them."

That brush was about thirty feet away on the center and left of the regimental front, and on the right about the same, but the woods were more open. The rebels came on with a skirmish line leading, and skirmishers broke through the brush simultaneously on the front of about half the regiment. What they saw was a rifle pit with a long row of rifle barrels and bayonets pointed directly at them, and above this a double row of cool, grim, determined faces. Not a man on the line fired a shot. It was the most wonderful display of nerve I saw in all my army life. For an instant that rebel line stood as if they had seen Banquo's ghost. "Come over here, Johnny. Come in, we want you", cried some of ours. Without firing a shot, as one man they turned and fled back to the line of battle which was struggling through the tangled swale fifty or sixty paces behind them. There the line halted, opened fire, and sent a swarm of bullets through the brush over our heads.

"They won't come any closer, now, give it to them", shouted the major. It was dark enough so that we could see the flash of muskets down in the thickets, and the boys poured in a crushing volley. After the second or third round there was no reply and we ceased firing, but far into the night an unceasing chorus of groans and cries rose from the thickets below.

But this attack which reached from the line of our regiment towards the left and wore itself out there, was but a part of a movement of the rebels which had for its object the crushing of the whole 6th Corps, constituting the right wing and flank or Meade's entire army. Simultaneous with the attack on our front, there was heard the rebel yell away to our right and rear, and Gordon's and Johnston's brigades, in a mass, hurled themselves on the extreme right flank of the army, consisting of the new 3d Division, I have mentioned, and Shaler's brigade. The brigades of Shaler and Seymour were surprised and overwhelmed, and they came rolling across our right and rear in broken and disorganized crowds. But the men of the 6th Corps were of sterner stuff. To our right extended the old 3d Brigade of the 2d Division, in which were such regiments as the old 43d and 49th New York and the 7th Maine. Those regiments simply swung back their lines, refusing their right, and stood there solid as a rock. The left of the 7th Maine joined our regiment and to the right and right rear the fighting was simply terrific. The 43d New York lost its colonel, lieutenant colonel and major, and that regiment and the 7th Maine lost about half of their whole number.

Right in the midst of the melee General Sedgwick dashed up on horseback to the right of our regiment. His hat was off, his coat torn, and his eyes were on fire. He called out, "What men are these?" "The 5th Wisconsin, Russel's brigade", answered half a score of voices. "I know you, men! I can depend on you." "Hold your line here and it will be all right". The boys jumped to their feet and cheered lustily right in the face of the enemy, whose attack reached us about the same time. The first thing Sedgwick did was to take the 6th Maine from where they lay behind us in support, to piece out the fighting line, leaving the 5th Wisconsin to hold the position alone. He could safely do it after what he had said to us. I think every man would have died where he stood after "Uncle John" told him he could depend on him.

No one who was with the right of the 6th Corps that night will ever forget the 6th of May, 1864, in the Wilderness. The fighting was terrific, and the shouting, yelling and sounds of the musketry re-echoing among the trees seemed to intensify the usual roar of the battle tenfold. As the volleys of musketry rolled along the line the flash of the powder would momentarily illuminate the dark woods, and a writer describing the scene well said, "it was like hell let loose".

The fighting gradually died down as the night drew on, and about midnight the corps fell back and took up a new line nearly perpendicular to that we had before held, and about a mile and a half or two miles in the rear. We took our stations in the dark, and as soon as it was light enough the lines were straightened and we went to work, threw up some slight entrenchments and slashed the brush and timber in our front. The position was on high ground and strong, and all this day, the 7th, we waited for an attack which did not materialize.

The rebels followed us up, exchanged shots with the skirmishers in our front, took a look at us and stopped.

They made an attack on a battery to our left, a short distance off, and were easily repulsed. Otherwise the day was uneventful. Along in the night we were ordered to fall in as quietly as possible, moved down to the Fredericksburg and







Gordonsville plank road, and commenced our march in the direction of Fredericksburg. We at once came to the conclusion that we were to fall back across the river, and that once more the Army of the Potomac, under the invincible Grant, had met with a defeat. We were greatly hindered and delayed by the trains which appeared to be making all haste to get to the Rappahannock, and made but a short distance.

In the grey of the morning we made a sharp turn to the right, and soon we learned that we were on the road to Spottsylvania Court House.

Through our hearts were heavy with the fearful losses we had suffered, and we were dazed with fatigue, nervous strain and loss of sleep, this was better than falling back defeated, and as the sun rose and dispelled the chilly morning mists our spirits rose correspondingly. We pushed on, till we came into quite open country in the neighborhood of Bowling Green road, where we filed into a field, stacked arms, and made coffee. This made us feel better yet, and when we took arms to resume our route, a band in one of the other regiments struck up the familiar tune, "Ain't I glad to get out of the Wilderness". The boys responded with a cheer which rolled down the line of the whole division. We resumed our march and about one or one and a half o'clock came upon a large force of cavalry massed in the open woods, evidently resting. We recognized Custer near the road, poring over a map which he held before him. As we marched on we began to see wounded men walking back or being carried to the rear. In about an hour we emerged from the woods into some large clearings, and saw some men of the 5th Corps as skirmishers pushing a rebel line back. They had been marching parallel with us on another road, and came into position just ahead and to our left. We moved in and took position on their right, under a heavy artillery fire, holding the same relative position, the right of the army. Spottsylvania Court House was just in front of us, but the rebel army was between, and again Lee faced us with the bulk of his army. We were massed for an attack which was to be made just at dusk. The Iron brigade, which was with Warren's, 5th Corps, were placed just on our left, and had we have gone in that night all the Wisconsin regiments in the Army of the Potomac would have gone in together. For some reason the charge was abandoned, and we lay in the woods where we had formed, till daylight, throwing up some slight works of logs and brush. There were frequent alarms and picket firing during the night, but in the intervals we slept the sleep of utter exhaustion.

On the morning of the 9th we were withdrawn, and went to the left, where we entrenched, building quite a formidable line of rifle pits. Detachments from the different companies and regiments of the brigade were sent to the front as pickets, to keep in touch with the enemy, and heavy skirmishing ensued.

Several of our regiment and the 6th Maine were brought in wounded, as well as many from other regiments of the brigade. During the forenoon a report spread through the corps, which was soon confirmed, that General Sedgwick had been killed. Our brave and prudent leader, "Uncle John", whom we all loved and confided in, was gone, and a feeling of gloom and despondency settled upon the whole corps. We lay all that night in the breastworks we built, and next morning, about nine o'clock, the rebels began shelling us heavily. A shell thrown by them skipped the top of the rifle pit, a few feet to my right, took off the leg of a sergeant of the 119th Pennsylvania, above the knee, as he sat on the ground in rear of his company, and burst in the ground, throwing earth and fragments all around. One piece struck Major Totten in the hand and on the thigh, wounding the hand and bruising him severely; another struck my gunstock, crushing the wood down to the gun barrel, and bounding off struck me on the angle of the jaw, bruising it badly. We hugged our breastworks and lay snug until about half past six o'clock, when we vacated them and moved out in the direction of our skirmishers and lay down in the woods, behind some of the regiments of Upton's brigade, forming the third line of an attack organized and led by Upton. Just at dusk we started on one of those rushes for which the 6th Corps had become famous. We emerged from the woods, crossed a small clearing and carried the first line of entrenchments with a rush, securing about a thousand prisoners, and a battery; up to and over a second line we went, hurling it back on the third, to which we followed them, but were not able to carry it. We were obliged to fall back to the second line, but the rebels had rallied, and were pouring in a terrific flank fire from both sides, and we were obliged to abandon the battery and fall back to the first line, which we held until far in the night, when orders came to abandon it and return to our old place in the breastworks we had occupied during this day. The failure of this attack, if failure it was, is said to be due to the fact that Mott's division of the 2d Corps, which was



to attack simultaneously on the left, failed to get up, leaving the rebels on that part of the line free to concentrate on our flank. Had we been adequately supported, I believe we would have been able to hold our ground and escaped the still more terrific fighting of the 12th of May, for our attack had been made of the western face of the famous Salient, which is now known in history as the "Bloody Angle". We returned to our old station with sad hearts and gloomy foreboding. Our already diminished numbers were still further reduced. The Adjutant General's reports give our loss this day as seventy killed and wounded. Some splendid officers had fallen. Lieutenants Miller, of Company "C", and Stout, of Company "K", were killed. Captains White and Hilton, so conspicuous for gallantry on the afternoon of the 5th, were mortally wounded, and died a few days after. As the men came straggling in from the fight and took their places in the breastworks, enquiries were made for missing ones, most of whom would never return to the ranks, and it was with heavy hearts we lay down on the ground to get a little much needed sleep. We lay on the edge of the rifle pits, but sleep did not come until after hours of low despondent talk over the events of the past week. We were depressed and sad on account of our terrible losses, and despondent over the loss of our trusted and tried old leader. More than once I heard the exclamation that night, "This never would have happened if 'old Uncle John' had not been killed." Other regiments of the brigade suffered as much, both in loss of officers and men, as ourselves. Colonel Thomas M. Hurlinger and Lieutenant Colonel John B. Miles of the 49th Pennsylvania, were killed, and Major Fuller, of the 6th Maine, wounded.

The next morning, the 11th, we lay all day in the rifle pits, subjected to occasional shelling. The rebels had our range and made some very close shots, occasionally wounding a man, but we had got so inured to that sort of thing that we did not mind it much.

General Grant came early in the afternoon and took post with his staff on a rise of ground just to our right, and a short distance in rear of the place where General Sedgwick had been killed. I was interested in watching the "Silent Man" as he sat on his horse in front of his staff and orderlies, with the ever present cigar in his mouth.

The troops away to the right were feeling the lines, evidently seeking for a vulnerable spot. As the crackle of the skirmishers rose to the roar of a volley, I would see him lean forward on his horse and listen intently, evidently to learn whether the sound were receding or coming toward him. Occasionally an aide de camp or orderly would dash up with a message or dispatch, which he would receive, read, and hand to General Horace Porter or Colonel Ely Parker, speak a few words and resume his listening attitude. Aside from the skirmishing, affairs in our front were uneventful, and soon the night was on, and we were thankful for the rest of the day, and the further rest we got that night. We slept this night, as we had every night since the 3d day of May, in line of battle, on our arms, our cartridge boxes and belts strapped on, ready to spring into line in a moment.

The morning of the 12th dawned gray and lowering, the morning air damp and misty, with heavy clouds low and portentous hanging close above us.

About half an hour after daylight we received orders to fall in, and moved to the rear about half a mile, and stacked arms. We began to look around for material for a fire to make coffee, when an officer rode up, and in an instant all was hurry and bustle. We moved across country to our left, and soon we began to hear the rattle of musketry and the occasional heavy boom of guns. Word passed through the marching lines that Hancock had sprung like a tiger on the lines in his front, captured Generals Johnson and Stewart, with some twenty or thirty guns and many thousand prisoners. We were on our way to support him.

We little realized that we would, in less than half an hour, be in the midst of the most terrific struggle of the whole war.

We marched through some woods for quite a distance, then into some open fields on the higher ground, and in rear of some batteries firing there, thence into an old wood road across a creek which runs into the Ny River, which heads here, through some more woods, and then came an open field, and on the further side of it a line of fortifications. We had arrived at the apex of the great salient of Lee's line at Spottsylvania, which has become known to history as the "Bloody Angle". As we pushed through the woods, the wounded were streaming to the rear in a steady flow, and the dead from Hancock's charge strewn the field thickly. Shot and shell tore the limbs from the trees overhead, or burst above us, while the steady, continuous rattle and crash of the musketry gave indications of the deadly work going on in front.







We were ordered forward on the right into line, and took position in the open just to the right of the apex on the west face of the salient. Our left rested on the captured breastwork at one of the angles, and extended out at an angle of about forty-five degrees, so that we had both an enfilading and direct fire upon the enemy. Our attack was heavy, but the resistance was equally strong. We tried to rush, and got a small part of the line, but could get no further, so we settled down to a steady, determined "give and take" fight, loading and firing as fast as possible.

Not in all the history of the war was there such terrific, deadly fighting as this which occurred at this place of death. I can only say that I never expect to be fully believed when I talk about the "Bloody Angle" to those who were not there, because I should be most incredulous myself in like circumstances. We, who had been inured for nearly three years to the horrors of war, saw new horrors there. All day long the two lines stood at distances varying from half a dozen rods to half a dozen feet, and shot and stabbed each other until the rebel breastworks were filled with dead in gray, and outside, on the glacis in front, the corpses in blue were piled on each other in heaps. The bullets which swept over and across the spot where they lay, too often found lodgment in the dead bodies, and many of them were so mangled that they were little more than a bloody clot.

The musketry fire we maintained upon the summit of the rifle pit was something terrific. Not a rebel dared to lift up his head. I saw a rebel flag go up above the breastwork for a moment; there was a shower of splinters and it went down with the staff shot to pieces. A moment later it reappeared tied on a gnarly and crooked limb, and in another moment the improvised staff was in splinters like its predecessor. There is today a tree in the War Department at Washington that was cut down by the fire that was poured along the face of the breastwork. Still we could not carry it. The moment our fire slackened in order to make a rush the rebels behind would rise up and pour a volley into us that would stagger the line and melt much of it away, but never would drive it back. A return volley would again drive them out of sight below the top of the breastwork, and then would follow the steady rattle and roar of the musketry. So the day wore on. The logs on the top of the breastworks were cut and splintered into chips and slivers. The scrub pines were stripped of their limbs and became mere stubs, and the bodies of the trees in rear of the breastworks were scarred in every direction.

Major General A. A. Humphreys, in his book, "The Virginia Campaign of 1864 and 1865", says: "At the west angle the fighting was literally murderous". Brigadier General Grant, commanding the Vermont brigade, which joined our right, says: "It was literally a hand to hand fight. Nothing but the piled up logs or breastworks separated the combatants. Our men would reach over the logs and fire into the faces of the enemy, would stab over with their bayonets; many were shot and stabbed through the crevices and holes between the logs; men mounted the works and with muskets rapidly handed them kept up a continuous fire until they were shot down, when others would take their place and continue the deadly work, \* \* \* the brush and logs were cut to pieces and whipped into basket stuff. \* \* \* the rebel ditches and cross sections were filled with dead men several deep."

The rebel General McGowan, commanding the South Carolina brigade, says: "Our men lay on one side of the breastworks, the enemy on the other, and in many instances were pulled over. The trenches on the right, in the "Bloody Angle" had to be cleared of the dead more than once."

As we were fighting in the open, close to the angle, there were a couple of brass howitzers with caissons belonging to a regular battery standing there, idle and silent. The men who had worked them were all killed, as also were the horses which lay all around them in all conceivable attitudes. I shouted to Lieutenant Aaron Gibson: "Let us work those guns". He caught at the idea, took my musket, and ordered some men to help me. I rushed out to the caisson, which lay nearer the rebels, and brought back as much ammunition as I could carry in my arms, laid it on some brush close by and loaded the gun. A member of Company "E", whose name I have in my diary as John Lehn, and who had served in the Ayres regular battery for a time,—detached for that purpose,—stood at the trail and sighted the gun, while I handled the rammer. I made several trips to the caisson, and finally we fired everything there was in it. As I rammed the last shot home I came back and shouted to Lehn that our ammunition was gone. As I spoke he turned half around, a great red spot stood out on the light blue of his trousers over the abdomen, and he sunk to the ground. I sighted along the gun, saw it was aimed true for the breastworks, pulled the lanyard and gave them the last charge



of canister we had. I think everyone, except myself, who served that gun was killed or wounded. Besides Lehn, I remember an elderly man who was acting as orderly sergeant of Company "D". His name I do not now recall. Lieutenant Gibson, who was one of the three or four commissioned officers left with us, was wounded in the head, and put out of action early in the fight.

When the ammunition for the gun was gone, I started to the left, where a couple of brass guns were at work through embrasures cut in the captured breastworks, to get some more ammunition. As I passed along behind the firing line something happened to me,—I never knew what,—either a shell burst, or the windage of a shot passing, caught me. I had the sensation of being hurled through the air for an instant, and then there was a blank. The next I knew I was lying on the field with the rain smiting my face. I reeled and staggered, dizzy and sick, realizing only enough, that my fighting was over for that day at least. I reached the woods and ran into a provost guard stationed to stop skulkers and stragglers. I was stopped for a moment, but an officer coming up saw something was the matter, took me by the arm and led me to a road. My recollection of that afternoon and night is very indistinct. I do not know where I was or where I slept; a hazy recollection of wandering about next morning until I found the fragments of the brigade in a little open place, near where we had been fighting, is the first I recall. I was dizzy and deaf for many days after. I was afterward told that the regiment remained in line at the angle till about four o'clock in the afternoon, when a rush took them up to the breastwork and shifted the deadly fighting at the point of contact further to the right. After this time there was a lull in the fighting, but it broke out at intervals far into the night. About three o'clock in the morning of the 13th the rebels abandoned the salient and fell back to a new entrenched line further in the rear.

What was left of the regiment was relieved about nightfall, and fell back to the place where I found them next morning.

During the day I visited the scene of the severe fighting of the 12th. Never was such a field seen in any modern war. The cornfield at Antietam was nothing to compare with it. Where our regiment stood, the dead were literally piled up, and the ground covered for many rods, so that there was hardly room to step between the bodies. The dead of many regiments were there,—for, as the regiments melted away other regiments would be sent in to fill out the line, and this process was repeated again and again. We had, I think, only five line officers left, and of this number Lieutenant Gibson was wounded.

Major Truefitt, who commanded the 119th Pennsylvania was killed, and Captain Charles P. Warner, who succeeded to the command, was almost immediately after shot dead.

Our losses for a small regiment, had been fearful. We could not have been over 450 strong when we crossed the Rapidan, and the official reports show that on the 5th to the 7th of May, our loss was 145, and from the 8th of May to the 21st, 149, (only two or three of which was subsequent to the 12th) making a loss of 294 out of that small number.

On the 13th our regiment had but a few more than 100 muskets. In my diary I find under date of May 16th this significant entry: "We drew rations this morning for the brigade. Our whole number of men is 864; before we started on the campaign we numbered 2,360."

The few officers we had left were heroes. Each had charge of two or three companies, and the companies were commanded by sergeants and corporals. When Sergeant Rickaby, of my company was sent anywhere on duty, the writer, as the senior and only corporal, commanded Company "A" 11 muskets all told.

Major Totten, though painfully wounded and bruised, stood by us day and night ever on the alert and faithful to his trust.

He has gone to join the boys who are "resting under the trees just over the river," but the little remnant he led out of the wilderness will remember him till death with grateful hearts, and eyes will moisten as they recall his thoughtful care and consideration in their hours of sore trial.

And here this paper may properly end. It would be too tedious to trace our flanking movements from day to day till Coal Harbor. Let it suffice for the present that we were there, and went in again in support of one of our accustomed charges. We lost out of our little band on the night of June 2d, 28 more, including Lieutenant Cram and Captain Butterfield wounded, the first severely, the other less so.

Chairman Bean—It has been suggested by members that we would like to hear some remakes from our ready and eloquent Comrade Perry.







Comrade Perry—Mr. President and Comrades of the 5th Wisconsin Regiment: I feel as though the chairman was bearing down on me a little hard when he casts upon me the duty of speaking for the 5th Wisconsin Regiment as reorganized. Most of you who surround me today served in that regiment from three to four years, while my service was little less than a year. I am, perhaps, the youngest man in the room, having reached my fifty-third year on the 23d of August last. How I came to carry a musket in Company "G", of the 5th Regiment during the last year of the war without having deliberately lied to the recruiting officer, may be a query in the minds of my comrades. I will say, however, that my father was such a hater of slavery and so devotedly attached to the government of the United States that he consented over his own signature to my enlistment in the army before I became sixteen years of age. This was in the summer of 1864.

The idea that predominated at the beginning of the war that enlistment meant a few days or at longest a few months play spell, had been entirely obliterated from the minds of the American people. Many of you at that time, had served about three years in the old 5th and had taken an active part in some of the most bloody struggles recorded in history. At Maryes Height, Williamsburg, Fredricksburg, The Wilderness, Spottsylvania, Cold Harbor and elsewhere you had met the enemy and performed your part nobly and well in some of the most desperate conflicts the world ever knew. Those of you of the older organization left the service at the expiration of your term of enlistment, when we of the new organization joined the regiment to take your place. We of the new 5th simply put the cap-sheaf on the record that the old 5th had made. One thing I may say, however, that that aided and assisted us in continuing the record of the regiment during the remainder of the war, after many of you came home, when you left Colonel Thomas S. Allen, Captain Henry Curren, Comrade Smith and three companies known to us as "A", "B" and "C", of as good fighting men as ever unsheathed a sword, shouldered a musket or faced an enemy.

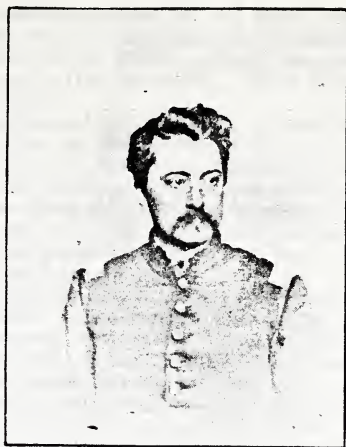
Through these men, perhaps, more than any other source, we learned your early history. It was an inspiration to us and a great incentive to duty to know that we were to complete the history by good and faithful service that you had so nobly begun and faithfully carried out through the first three years of the war.

You will pardon me if I suggest that I came here prepared to listen and not to talk. I have listened with wrapt attention to these older comrades as they described and discussed in particular and in detail the part that the regiment took in some of the memorable battles of the war, and especially the part that you took in the battles of Williamsburg and Maryes Heights. We get from your descriptions and discussions facts that we might search ages for in history and still be in the dark concerning them, as they are matters that history does not record, except as we make such history through these annual gatherings.

The remarks of Comrade Anderson reminds us that we were learning the part that you had taken in the preceding years of the war, you were watching with intense interest the part we were taking in the last year. While we were proud of the record that you had made during the preceeding three years, you were watching to learn whether or not the continuation of that record to be made by us, would be such that your pride would continue in behalf of the 5th Regiment. It is pleasing to note the fact that in these annual gatherings we find nothing in the entire record of our regiment to be ashamed of, but everything to make us proud of the fact that we once belonged to this famous organization.

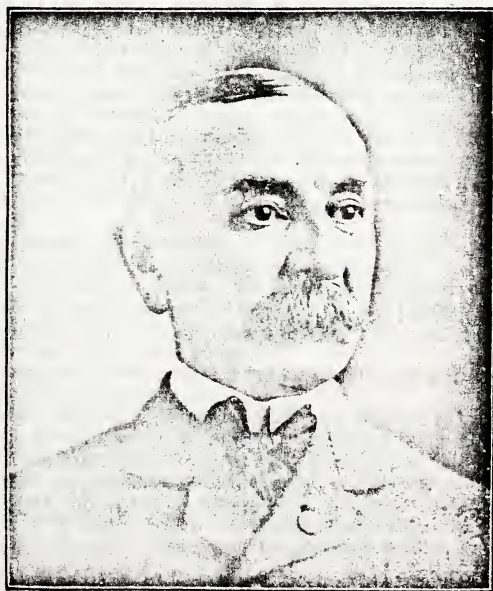
The remarks of Comrade Smith this morning covering our charge of the works surrounding Petersburg, in the spring of 1865, calls vividly to mind that memorable day. As we look the matter over today it seems almost impossible that men should accomplish such a daring feat as that of driving a stubborn enemy away from and capturing such works. The thought that we should fail never once entered our minds as we approached that daring undertaking. When we passed our own main works and marched up to the skirmish line, we knew full well the duty that the following morning would bring forth. During the night we lay in line of battle close under the skirmish line where we lost the gallant Captain Doughty and Lieutenant Squires was wounded, while many others were either killed or wounded. Nevertheless when the order *forward* was given, we sprang to our feet, rushed forward, passed over and around abattis, scrambled up, mounted and passed over breastworks, fought and drove the enemy from his position and saw them scatter as if a whirlwind had overtaken them. It was all done in so incredibly a short time that it seems to me but a dream. During the charge, commencing just at break of day, company, regiment and brigade organizations were for a time lost,





**MAJOR ENOCH TOTTEN.**

**First Lieutenant and Captain Company "F." Assistant Adjutant General Artillery Brigade,  
6th Corps. Assistant Adjutant General, 3d Division, 6th Corps.**



**OSCAR H. PIERCE, Co. "B"**





to be reformed only when there was a lull in the fight and no "Johnnies" were in sight. The same spirit, the same determination, the same courage that inspired you older boys at Maryes Height, at Williamsburg, inspired us at Petersburg and elsewhere during the last year of the rebellion. This is the real American spirit and way of engaging in warfare.

In recent years our sons and our boys have been engaged in the Spanish-American war and in an effort to subdue the Philipino. If we may believe the reports, we find that same spirit of American bravery, American independence in fighting, American determination to succeed in the soldier of the present day. As we watched with interest the struggle in Africa between the English and the Boer, it seems to me that if the Boer was as good a fighter as the Confederate we met in 1861 and 1865, or as the Union troops were, Johnnie Bull, with his bulldog tenacity would have been driven out of Africa long ago.

Our president of this association says, "that it is to be hoped it will be a long time before another war comes." We certainly all agree with him in this thought and hope. As General Sherman suggested, "War is hell". I do not think it is possible, however, that finite beings can change the plans of an all wise God, nor can we foresee those plans to any great extent, but so far as we can judge of the future by the past, we certainly must feel that this nation is a chosen people whose duty it is to carry freedom to every corner of the earth. We may hope that this may come about without war, but the probability is that before the end our nation will be tested to the quick, and that more than one war will mark the progress of this nation towards the accomplishment of that purpose for which God has created us. In my judgment it is not a matter left to our disposition, but a duty which we must and will perform whether we desire to do so or not.

In conclusion let me say that I am thankful, as a member of the new organization, that you older ones gave us an untarnished record to complete. I am also thankful that those of us to whom you trusted this duty of completing your record, did not by any act of cowardise or lack of duty on our part dishonor in the least particular the record that you made.

Chairman Bean—I think it is altogether natural and pardonable under the circumstances, that Comrade Perry, and all the comrades, should indulge in a little criticism and assume that there was no army like ours, and no regiment like ours, and it should be said that there was never any better. I quite agree with the comrade that the success of an army depends largely upon the effort and character of the men that compose the army. Drill is of very great importance. We know that. Unquestioned obedience to order is of supreme importance. We see all this manifested in the European armies. Great bodies of men move at a signal like a machine. And while the importance of that sort of discipline and drill can not be overestimated, it nevertheless remains true, that in the ultimate, in the final struggle, a great deal depends upon the men behind the guns. I do not care how splendid the mechanism of the weapons may be, how distinguished the officers may be, how well drilled the men may be, this part—by which I mean the intelligence and the valor, or combining them both, the intelligent valor of the soldier, is what in the end wins the victory; and I think it is fair to assume that there is no other people on the face of the globe that had in as large a measure, this intelligent valor as the American people.

Chairman Bean—Doctor Holbrook will now read to us, a paper on the Battle of Williamsburg. The 5th Wisconsin at Williamsburg.

A Comrade—Mr. President: Before he reads that paper, I have noticed that Comrade Anderson rolled up his paper and put it in his pocket. I would like to inquire—Isn't that paper the property of this Society?

Secretary Engle—He will give it to us.

A motion that Comrade Anderson be requested to file a copy of his paper with the secretary was unanimously adopted.

Comrade Anderson—Before Comrade Holbrook begins to read his paper, I will state that there are a great many incidents connected with this campaign that I might have added which I omitted, because I did not want to make matter too personal. But there is one occurrence on the night of the 6th of May, when we had that terrific crash on our right, that I would like to speak of and ascertain whether there are any persons that know any of the men that were concerned in it. I have always had a curiosity to meet with one of a certain half a dozen men that I was with that night.

After the firing had quieted down, General Sedgwick came up along our line, and he was very anxious to know just where the rebel lines were located, and made



the inquiry as to a number of points that were between the line we held at that time and over toward the breastworks from which our line had been driven, and the officers and men that were around him, told him as well as they could just where the lines were located, and about how far the enemy were in front. And the old man wanted to see more, and he turned to Major Totten. He says "Major, haven't you got a good non-commissioned officer that you can send out, with a number of men, and draw their fire, so I could see where these lines are?" Lieutenant Gibson commanding my company was there. He says: "Gibson, have you got a good sergeant you can send out with the men?" Gibson says: "I haven't but one sergeant left." "Have you got a corporal?" "Well," he says, "here is Anderson." "He will do." There was half a dozen men given me, detailed from the different companies of the regiment. It was pitch dark. I never knew who they were, to recognize them, but I put three on my left and three on my right, and we went out in front, commenced advancing, and I cautioned the boys to keep in touch with me. "I will go ahead and we will whisper. You keep going along quietly, and try to shelter yourself as much as you can." We pushed out, and by and by I could hear the rebels whispering and talking in a low tone right in front of me. I said to the boys: "You stay here down behind the trees, and hug the ground as close as you can, and I will go a little further and will do something to make them fire." They stopped there by the trees. I pushed on ahead until I was afraid to go any closer for fear I would walk into their lines. I threw myself down onto the ground in the rear of a big oak tree, and fired my gun and shouted and I commenced to scratch the leaves with my arms, and make as much noise as I could, and the rebels took the hint. They just riddled those woods with a volley of musketry that roared in the woods. I hugged the ground pretty close. I knew it was what was wanted. I had reason to believe from the size of the volley that General Sedgwick would be satisfied. The only fear I had was that our boys would open up behind. But I lay there until the rebels, not having their shots returned, quieted down. The rebel officers told their men to stop firing; they were firing at nothing. And when the thing was reasonably quiet I got up and I went to look for my men. I could not find one of them. Not one. I walked cautiously back, and kept calling and whistling. I did not find one of them, and finally I got up to near where the regiment was. I says: "Don't fire; I am coming in." "Come on", they said, so I walked out of the woods. The woods were a little bit open there, only straggling trees. I walked out from the timber. The moment I came over I was collared on each side. I told them who I was. They looked at me very carefully, so as to be sure I was not some fellow on the other side, and I went to inquiring for my men. "Oh," they said, "They came in long ago, as they commenced firing." They had taken their chances of all that musketry that the rebels were pouring in, and also took their chances of getting a volley from the regiment. Every one I saw told me they got in all right. I would like to know if any of you know anything about the boys that were along that night? I want to see one of them. (Laughter).

A Comrade—You wont find one of them.

Chairman Bean—We will now listen to Comrade Dr. Holbrook's paper on the battle of Williamsburgh.

#### WITH THE FIFTH WISCONSIN AT THE BATTLE OF WILLIAMSBURG.

Forty years ago, this present week, the 5th Wisconsin was taking part in the historic Peninsula Campaign in Virginia. It was upon the right of General Hancock's brigade of General Smith's division in General Keyes' 4th Army Corps. The 5th was the only Wisconsin regiment then serving with the Army of the Potomac.

On Saturday night, May 3, 1862, we were encamped before the defenses of Yorktown near Lee's Mills. During that night, under cover of heavy firing, the Confederates abandoned their position and started for Richmond. Early on Sunday morning the flight of the enemy was discovered and our brigade was immediately started in pursuit with the 5th Wisconsin leading. So hasty was our departure that time was not taken for food, and the breakfast ration of hardtack, raw pork, and coffee was dealt out to us and promiscuously dumped into our haversacks, to be eaten when opportunity came. But no opportunity came to eat or rest that long, tedious day until after nightfall, and then we were fully as tired as we were hungry. Indeed, that single ration was the only food dealt to us for three days. It was frail sustenance for a hearty, healthy, working man, who had to carry a heavy Austrian musket, forty rounds of ammunition, his accoutrements, his "baggage", knapsack,







and his body, on which to march and fight his way for twenty miles or more, ankle deep in Virginia mud. Yet, with all this, there was very little complaining; the men accepted the conditions like true American soldiers, and the 5th Wisconsin stood up before the enemy in an almost hand to hand encounter, and conquered at Williamsburg with stomachs that had been practically empty for two days.

During Sunday afternoon we overtook the enemy and had a few brushes with them. Later on we found them in force at Fort Magruder, in front of Williamsburg. Here they disputed our progress in earnest, and after dark we endeavored to surprise them; but fortunately for us and our lives, we got terribly tangled in some woods filled with fallen timber and undergrowth. In the darkness we lost our bearings and thus probably escaped something serious. We were finally halted, and, after a conference of officers, we retraced our course to the edge of the woods, and late in the night we bivouaced close to the enemy in an old corn field. To add to our discomfort a heavy rain came on. We were without shelter or protection, and our mental as well as our bodily condition need not be described. Every old soldier will readily understand it. This, however, was but a prelude to what was in store for us.

The field upon which we rested, within a few hours, was to be the scene of a terrible conflict, and before another night over four thousand men, friend and foe intermingled, would be lying in or about that field, dead or disabled. Over two thousand of them would be our comrades with General Hooker.

It may be well to here digress and note a few facts regarding the situation and disposition of the troops of each army.

In our immediate front, that night, was Fort Magruder with a dozen smaller forts in its vicinity. The peninsula at this point is so narrow that the roads which run parallel with it are merged into one thoroughfare at Williamsburg, so that troops, artillery and wagons could move only in single column. Our commander had undoubtedly foreseen the difficulty of squeezing a hundred thousand men with their long, lumbering trains through on that one single road, for as soon as he learned the Confederates were retreating he planned to overtake or head them off by water, and immediately commenced embarking some of his troops at Yorktown to send them by transports as far as practicable up the York River. Thus General McClellan and the bulk of the army were fourteen or fifteen miles distant from us on the night of the 4th.

The Confederate retreat had been carefully planned and had been considered in detail by leading military and civil officials at a council held in Richmond. General Joseph E. Johnston was in command. When we reached the line of defenses in front of Williamsburg on the afternoon of the 4th, the Confederate army had virtually passed that place; only a few men were in and about the forts and redoubts. It had been delegated to General Longstreet to guard the retreat and keep the gateway at Williamsburg closed until the main part of the Confederate army was safe on its way to Richmond.

Upon the appearance of our advance line at Fort Magruder the Confederate rear guard promptly notified General Longstreet, who immediately halted his command and returned through Williamsburg to Fort Magruder. Word was also sent along the line to their nearest troops to return and assist him. This was the Confederate position on the morning of the 5th. During the forenoon their force was augmented, until, according to their own reports, about thirty-two thousand Confederates were present, or were available.

There had been some confusion during the previous afternoon and evening regarding movement and disposition of the Union troops.

Yorktown and Lee's Mills are about six miles apart. Williamsburg is about fourteen miles from Yorktown and eighteen miles from Lee's Mills. The 2d, 3d, and 6th Corps were at Yorktown, and the 4th Corps was at Lee's Mills.

The Union advance was started early Sunday morning from each of these two points with Hancock's brigade leading the 4th Corps, and General Stoneman, chief of cavalry, with a command of about four regiments of cavalry and four batteries of flying artillery, leading the 3d Corps.

General Stoneman with his mounted command was therefore in the lead and the first on the field.

The roads from Yorktown and Lee's Mills converge and come together about midway between Yorktown and Williamsburg. When our brigade reached the forks where these roads unite, General Stoneman, with his command, had already passed that point, but his support had not arrived, and we immediately followed; but before the whole of our division could pass the forks, General Hooker, with his



division of the 3d Corps, who had followed General Stoneman as fast as the deep mud would permit, arrived, with the intention of immediately following General Stoneman.

All who remember the men, and will study the situation, will have no difficulty in picturing the "tilt" between General "Joe" Hooker and General "Baldy" Smith settling their affairs that day, for each was equally anxious to "get ahead" and be the first to reach the front.

At any rate, General Smith's division was ahead, and kept ahead, and held the road, and our brigade was the first (after Stoneman's command) to see Fort Magruder—of course General Hooker "gracefully submitted!"

Thus, on the morning of the 5th, General Hancock's brigade was on the advance line.

During the night and early morning General Hooker's division came up and exchanged places with us, and during the day General Kearney's division arrived, also the other divisions of the 4th Corps. Thus there were present, on the 5th, two divisions of General Heintzelman's, 3d Corps, the three divisions of General Keyes', 4th Corps, General Stoneman's command, detachments of the engineer corps, and a few independant organizations. Colonel Livermore estimates the Union forces at forty thousand at Williamsburg that day, but it must be remembered that nearly half of this number did not reach the field in time to take part or were held as support.

The forces of the two armies, numerically, were quite evenly balanced, with the advantage, of course, in favor of the defending line.

In the absence of the commander, Brigadier General E. V. Sumner, commanding the 2d Corps, was the ranking officer present, and although his corps was fifteen miles away embarking for a movement up the York River, yet he had command until the arrival of General McClellan, late in the afternoon. This was one of the procedures that has puzzled men who did not carry muskets. Brigadier General Samuel P. Heintzelman, commanding the 3d Corps, was next in rank, and was present with his command, also Brigadier General Erasmus D. Keyes, commanding the 4th Corps, with his command, also eighteen other brigadier generals in command of divisions or brigades. I believe there were only five or six major generals in the whole army at that time.

Early in the morning General Hooker's division commenced work, and General Hancock's brigade moved to another field on the right and prepared for business. The shot and shell from the Confederates were flying thicker each moment, and trouble was increasing fast. But while we were in line expecting to be ordered forward to take the forts in our front, there came a surprise for our brigade. It was getting late in the morning and no considerable headway had been made by our cavalry, artillery, or infantry. It could be plainly seen that the number of the enemy was increasing each hour, but *our* lines were not. Suddenly our regiment was started on a double quick and hurried further and further away from the main body over almost impassable roads. We were followed by the rest of the brigade. We afterward learned that the situation was getting serious; that the enemy were pressing us closely, and that we were sent away to the right to make a long detour and thus draw or divert him from General Hooker. Had not General Hooker received timely aid from General Kearney that afternoon his loss would probably have been double what it was, and had we failed in our flank movement that day, the loss would have been appalling.

About noon we reached a dirty, sluggish creek, and found only a mud dam, about seventy-five yards in length, on which we could cross, and then only in single column. Across the dam on the opposite side were frowning redoubts, and a few good sharpshooters could have easily held back an entire army at that place. It was learned from the people about us that these works were occupied, but errors are liable to occur, and for some unaccountable reason the men in these fortifications—if there were any—did not return our fire, and we prepared to cross the dam and storm the redoubts.

We soon found these earthworks were upon the extreme left flank of the enemy's lines, and were part of the system of fortifications guarding Williamsburg.

Our regiment was still in advance; skirmishers were deployed, and, as we were about ready to start, a young lieutenant came dashing up on horseback. We learned that he was a member the 5th Regular Cavalry, serving as volunteer aide, and had been sent to lead us. His sudden appearance at once interested the men and they welcomed him with a shout. The 5th Regiment will never forget that figure or face. The whole world heard of him later on: it was Lieutenant Custer, afterward the brave, dashing, and lamented General Custer.





All of the brigade did not follow: for some reason the 43d New York did not come with us.

The 6th Maine and 49th Pennsylvania of our brigade, with some companies of the 33d New York (which were sent in the place of the 43d), and a battery of six or eight pieces, in all about two thousand five hundred men, crossed that creek. We moved forward as quickly as the deep mud would permit and our colors were soon planted on the first redoubt. From there we moved on about twelve hundred yards and captured a second redoubt.

From this point the country spread out before us with beautiful fields and orchards skirted with woods. There were grand old southern homes in sight, of some of the "first families of Virginia."

Fort Magruder and two smaller forts were in plain view across the fields, probably fifteen to eighteen hundred yards distant. They were occupied and supported by the enemy. We moved forward in the open field to a shallow, but wide ravine. Heavy woods were upon our right, and a large, clear field of grain in our immediate front. A battery was posted along the further side of this ravine, near some low farm buildings, probably about twelve hundred yards from the enemy. Six companies of our regiment were deployed as skirmishers, and they advanced to within three hundred yards of the first and smaller fort, and opened fire upon the enemy and drove him out. We, in the ravine had been ordered to lie down and conceal ourselves as best we could in the mud, to be ready for an advance. The position we were then occupying was extremely dangerous; the enemy was preparing to meet us, and his sharpshooters and artillery were fast getting a range upon us, our battery, and the rest of our brigade. He had been driven from the two smaller redoubts, and he evidently expected us to advance upon the main fort. So many men had been detached to occupy the captured redoubts and to watch the flanks, that only about sixteen hundred men were in line facing five or six thousand of the enemy, who was continually being strengthened by fresh arrivals. General Hancock was confident that with a few more men he could take and hold the enemy's position, and he had repeatedly sent for reinforcements for that purpose, and was momentarily expecting them. This assistance had been promised to him, but instead of troops, he finally received reply to leave the field and fall back. He was too good a soldier to disobey, but he sent a trusted aid to General Sumner to personally ask for help, and then delayed carrying out the order to retire, and awaited an answer. From his place of observation he could scan the entire field of action, and he realized that he held the key to the situation. To retire at that stage would be disastrous to us, and probably to our comrades with General Hooker. At that hour General Kearney's division had not reached the front.

It was getting well along in the afternoon. The enemy was seen to be moving about with evident intentions upon us or our position. The other regiments of our brigade had been posted at various favorable points in anticipation of such a move. General Hancock about this time received word that there was not a man to be spared to help him, that General Hooker was being pressed to his very last man, and that his ammunition was about exhausted. He was further told that the position he was occupying was not only extremely dangerous, but that he should retire from it at once with his entire command. He called his officers about him in council. Among them were Captain Bean and Lieutenant Oliver of this Commandery, and they were all of one mind—to hold the position we had taken AT ALL HAZARDS, *reinforced or not reinforced.*

The day was declining, and the men in the ravine were getting uneasy under the continuous fire and were anxious for a chance to crawl out of that mud, at least long enough to exercise themselves, when suddenly our skirmish line under Lieutenant Colonel Emory commenced a rapid firing. The clouds at this time were heavy and a drenching rain soon came on. It was nearly five o'clock, and we could see that a troop of Confederate cavalry had come out from the woods upon our right. It quickly formed in line and deployed. It was immediately followed by two or three pieces of artillery and five or six regiments of infantry. In numbers they were vastly superior to us, and we could see they were well provided with a large support in their rear. Upon the appearance of the cavalry our regiments quickly formed in line and then a square, and prepared to defend itself, but the cavalry and artillery did not continue the advance, and the line was reformed as far as practicable under fire. The cavalry simply menaced us and then retired, but the artillery unlimbered, took position and went to work. Our skirmishers commenced immediately to fall back to the main body, loading and firing in perfect alignment as they retreated.



The infantry, however, came pressing rapidly towards us. Our battery, which up to that time had been doing constant and effective service, now limbered up, and piece after piece moved away, well to the rear, and it rendered no further material assistance to us that day. A regiment of the enemy was rapidly nearing them on the double quick in line of battle. Our regiment was, therefore, alone in that ravine, and every man felt a personal responsibility. The other regiments of our brigade were quickly massed in and about the second redoubt which we had taken. Our brigade commander, our colonel, our captain, and indeed all the field and line officers, here displayed the most heroic coolness and bravery, which strengthened and inspired their men with faith and courage. Indeed it was a time to have faith in our officers, and to have individual courage, for it was then to late to retire, we were obliged to fight. To flee would mean death or capture to every man in that brigade. Reinforcements had been denied us, and our nearest comrades were nearly two miles away. Our only avenue of escape was by the way of the mud dam which we had crossed on our way to that position. There was no alternative for us, and the enemy understood it well, for they advanced upon our position with the utmost confidence that they would push us to the dam or to death. Their first object was to capture or to silence the battery which had repeatedly made great inroads in their ranks, and as soon as the battery had moved away they turned particular attention to our isolated regiment, which was in the ravine. A regiment which had followed and supported the leading regiment of the advance then obliqued and moved to the front and started upon a double quick toward us. The other Confederate regiments, which had come upon the field, did not closely follow the lead of those two regiments. The 24th Virginia and the 5th North Carolina did the bulk of the fighting for them, as their casualties show. Up to this time our regiment had remained virtually in its first position.

Our dear old colonel knew his business well and awaited orders. General Hancock, in his report of this part of the engagement, says: "The colonel of the 5th Wisconsin had not *even thought* of retiring."

It was not until the enemy were fairly upon us that Colonel Cobb received the order to retire.

We will never forget the coming of the aide who delivered that order, for he was the only mounted officer in that part of the field, and as the enemy was close at hand and approaching us, he was a fine target for the whole rebel line. The bullets flew about him like hailstones, and he stretched his whole length along the neck and back of his big bay horse. As soon as he was sufficiently near to be heard, he shouted his message to Colonel Cobb, and then retired at breakneck speed.

We then settled slowly back, keeping well together, circling around and around each other, paying little attention to company formation, but *standing together as a regiment*, each man firing as he came to the front and hotly contesting every inch of ground until we reached the redoubt. *There* we halted and formed in line and made the final stand, with the enemy directly upon us.

Up to this time the balance of the brigade, which was in the redoubt and in line of battle on each side of it, had been obliged to confine its work to the flanks, for our regiment was masking and prevented them from firing into the main line.

As soon as we gained the crest, and had faced about at the redoubt, and had given them an open field, the dear, blessed boys in the 6th Maine and the 49th Pennsylvania, who had been watching, waiting and preparing for their opportunity, commenced work in earnest. At this moment the advance of the enemy was just under the crest, not two hundred feet away, determined to capture our position. The order was given to move forward and we started toward the advancing enemy. The Confederate regiments, which had advanced upon our little band with so much confidence in their ability to drive everything before them, were dazed at this turn of affairs and faltered—and then our time had arrived—the second order was given to us, and down the line from every throat in Hancock's brigade rang out the cry to "Charge! Charge!"

In less than half an hour there was not an able bodied rebel left on that field to fight us, and the ground for six hundred yards in our front was strewn with the dead and wounded, and in our keeping we had nearly five hundred prisoners and five hundred stands of arms; and had captured their battle flag. The smoke of battle hung dense, heavy and low, and when it lifted and was wafted aside, the scene upon that field was one never to be forgotten.

It is no trouble for any participant to remember the day and the date of that engagement, but to assist any who were not directly interested, it can be easily recalled, for it was on the fifth day of the fifth month at five o'clock in the after-







noon, that the 5th Wisconsin disabled or captured five hundred of the 5th North Carolina.

Wet through to the skin, begrimed with powder, nearly starved, and thoroughly exhausted after the excitement and work of the past two days, without food or rest the men went immediately to work to assist in relieving the suffering of foe and friend alike. When darkness finally closed in upon us we foraged the neighborhood for fence rails to bridge the mud, upon which we laid ourselves down late at night to rest, many without blankets or shelter save the sky, for during the battle our "baggage", our knapsacks, and all our personal effects had been generally sacrificed. I hunted long and unavailingly for my knapsack and personal property. It was late in the afternoon of the following day before the commissary train was able to reach us and relieve our hunger, after three days of fasting.

In my home is preserved a memento of that battle: it is an old gray blanket which was my covering that night. It was picked up on the field after the engagement while it was wet with blood of some brave Southern soldier who gave his life for the Confederacy.

Our work at Williamsburg was accomplished. We had met and repulsed the enemy. Hooker was safe, the day was ours, and Hancock's brigade had saved the day and made a glorious record.

Before the morning of the 6th the enemy had moved away and was far on his line of retreat toward Richmond.

\* \* \* \* \*

After a lapse of forty years one of the men who carried a musket and used it on that gloomy day desires to extend this paper sufficiently to call attention to a few facts, and to pay tribute to the brave men who participated in the engagement at Williamsburg.

Hancock's "superb" charge is the one usually and historically mentioned in connection with this battle, but the charge of our brigade was not made until after it had received a most terrific and unsuccessful onslaught from the enemy.

The "Jeff Davis Legion" of Stuart's cavalry, headed the enemy's advance, but upon the first volley from our batteries it retired. Pelham's battery of several guns followed their lead and was brought onto the field as far as it dare go. After them came General J. B. Early's brigade of six regiments supported by Rain's brigade of three or four regiments of infantry with Major General D. B. Hill commanding the division. Probably eight or ten thousand men altogether, were in that part of the field, or were available. General Hill took command of the right wing of the advance, and General Early the left wing. After General Early was wounded and carried from the field, Colonel McRea of the 5th North Carolina succeeded to the command of that wing. This change probably saved him his neck.

The 5th North Carolina and the 24th Virginia led the attack, and neither of these regiments halted or faltered for an instant, but came rapidly toward us. The other regiments of Early's brigade, consisting of the 2d Florida, 2d Mississippi, 23d North Carolina and 38th Virginia, followed them, but for some reason they did not render the advance regiments any material support. They did not keep up with or scarcely follow the leading regiments, and the galling fire from our lines seemed to disturb them. We learned from Confederate reports there was some misunderstanding regarding orders and movements of those regiments. The blunder was probably made by some of their officers, but we will not undertake to locate the responsibility. General Hill, in his report, claimed "they were not well drilled, that they moved slowly, and did not obey orders". Rain's brigade, which supported Early's brigade, for some reason was not brought on to assist.

The 5th North Carolina, one of the two regiments which had been selected to lead this charge, was undoubtedly chosen for its numerical strength, fighting qualities and discipline. There is every reason to believe it had an average, if not a full number of officers and men. They were veterans in service and the year before had met our comrades of the 2d Wisconsin at Bull Run, and had lost heavily. It may be added here that they recuperated, and a year later, in 1863, again met some of our comrades on the second day at Gettysburg, and there lost two hundred of their number.

It was a high type of Southern soldiery which fought to the death. Their charge upon our position the 5th of May, 1862, was one of the heroic deeds of the war. Those fellows came rushing down upon our line unswervingly, undaunted and unhesitatingly to meet their doom. They received several discharges of grape and canister from our battery before it moved away, the last volley being given to them at short range, not over one hundred yards distant. Its entire line from the



time of its formation in the edge of the woods until it halted at the foot of the crest, was under a continuous fire, but its ranks were closed as fast as broken. It reserved its fire expecting in the end to charge upon us and to crush us with one volley, and it moved straight and steadily forward with that in view until it was less than two hundred feet from us before it even wavered, then, for the first time, it hesitated—and in less time than I can tell of it, it was practically annihilated.

This was one of those disastrous charges that has not received official or historical attention, or been chronicled by such compilers as Colonel Fox in his "Regimental Losses", or by Colonel Livermore in his "Numbers and Losses". Colonel Fox in closing his work, in explanation of omissions in compiling losses, says: "Scars are the true evidence of wounds, and regimental scars can be seen only in the record of its casualties. In the civil war many a noble regiment lost the place in history to which it was entitled through a failure to record its gallant deeds."

In the case of the 5th North Carolina there was good excuse at the time for not making record of its losses at Williamsburg. Nearly all its field and line officers, and nearly all its men, were dead, disabled or captured. Very few escaped. The colonel and his adjutant, as already stated, were on brigade duty, and to that absence from their regiment they undoubtedly owed their lives. All the other regiments in Early's brigade made full and detailed reports of their casualties, the 24th Virginia alone reporting their loss at two hundred.

The government compilation of losses at Williamsburg in five Confederate brigades is complete excepting a report from the 5th North Carolina. In the space set apart for that regiment is only the significant memorandum—"No returns."

General Early, in his report, gives this pathetic explanation- "The gallantry of the 5th North Carolina was never excelled in the annals of warfare. THE RETURNS from that regiment are so unsatisfactory, and probably so inaccurate, that I forbear to report them". This report of the brigade commander, is corroborated with details in the report of the regimental commander, Colonel McRae; the division commander, Major General D. H. Hill, and the corps commander, Major General Longstreet.

General Johnston says the only captures made from their forces that day "were these by Hancock from the 5th North Carolina and the 24th Virginia".

The other extracts I have selected from official reports, simply confirm the report of General Early, and I will not weary you with the reading of them.

Colonel McRae, of the 5th North Carolina, in command of the left wing, in his report says: "The color bearer of the 5th North Carolina, was shot down four times, and their colors were finally lost. The firing was terrific, men and officers falling on every side until Major Maury of the 24th Virginia and myself were the only mounted officers remaining. Our charge upon the enemy's battery was not attended by success. How heroically my men behaved the casualties will show." He closes with this significant appeal: "My regiment is now so reduced as to be inefficient, which I beg may be speedily supplied."

Major General Hill, in command of the right wing in that charge, says: "The 5th North Carolina lost its commanding officers and one-half its men. The courage of the regiment made a wonderful impression upon the Yankees, and history has no example of a more daring charge".

The official reports here recited were made at the time, or within a very few days after the battle.

According to Colonel Fox's compilation the most remarkable losses during a single action in numbers and percentages, which were officially reported, occurred at Manassas in the 5th New York, "Duryea's Zouaves". That "regiment took 490 men into action, and its casualties were 297, or about 60 per cent. of its number." The 5th North Carolina had about an equal numerical strength but a very much larger percentage of casualties.

Colonel Fox further says: "The one regiment which sustained the greatest loss in battle during the *whole period of the war* which has been officially reported, was the 5th New Hampshire, which lost 295 men killed or mortally wounded, with not a man missing." Even this record does not greatly exceed the loss of the 5th North Carolina at Williamsburg, and probably with its other losses during the war the 5th North Carolina undoubtedly exceeded it. The next, or third regiment officially reported as having the greatest loss during the war, was from our own State in the 7th Wisconsin.

(NOTE: The Adjutant General of the State of North Carolina writes: "There are no returns or figures, official or otherwise, that he can find relating to the 5th North Carolina at Williamsburg".—F. H.)







The 5th North Carolina in its magnificent and heroic charge at Williamsburg lost at least seventy-five per cent. of its number.

The 5th Wisconsin superbly received that charge, and maintained its record for bravery, endurance and faithfulness.

Hancock's brigade had a comparatively small casualty list—about one hundred and fifty—of which the 5th Wisconsin contributed two-thirds.

It was not until one o'clock on the afternoon of the 5th, that General McClellan learned anything serious was going on, or that his presence was required at Williamsburg. The roads were terrible—almost impassable—and were seriously obstructed by debris and long, lumbering army trains. Considerable of the way had to be made through fields and woods, and it was between four and five o'clock in the afternoon before General McClellan was able to reach our lines and relieve General Sumner of command.

General Kearney and his men were just then coming upon the field to reinforce General Hooker, and the enemy was just emerging from behind Fort Magruder to advance upon our brigade. The artillery and infantry along both lines were each hard at work.

It was the crucial moment of that day.

General McClellan from his place of observation quickly comprehended the whole situation and the imperative of General Hancock's holding his position. He immediately ordered General Smith and General Naglee, with two or three brigades to our support, and they both started at once on the double quick, eager to reach us. They were obliged to make a detour to cross the mud dam, and it was so late before they could cover the distance that engagement was over before they came upon the field. On their way to us they met the prisoners we had taken who were being sent to the rear under escort.

This was General Hancock's first battle where he had been in command, and his quick comprehension, coolness and courage, that day brought him the familiar title by which he is generally known, as "The Superb".

That Williamsburg might have been an overwhelming victory for the Union forces if General Hancock had been sufficiently strengthened, is not, and has not, been questioned by any one, so far as I can learn. This is aggravated by the fact that General Smith was idle with two brigades of his command during the larger part of that day, and was nervously chafing and making every effort to help us. In his anxiety he had at two separate times started and moved some distance to reach us, but was ordered back.

In response to General Hancock's appeal to his division commander for reinforcements, General Smith through his aide, at half past three o'clock replied: "Go at once to General Hancock and tell him that I have *wanted* and have *tried* to reinforce him, but that General Sumner has *positively forbidden* to allow reinforcements to be sent to him."

The man with a musket had decided personal opinions regarding this battle, and thus far the present paper has endeavored to avoid expressing them, and has confined itself to facts without comment. But he firmly believes that if General Hancock had received the assistance of *one of the* two idle brigades of our divisions—even as late as four o'clock—our men would not only have succeeded in an assault upon Fort Magruder, but with the assistance of the troops upon our left, we would have hemmed in all the rebel army south of Williamsburg. If we had succeeded in materially disabling General Johnston's army that day, our march up the Peninsula, which followed that battle, would undoubtedly have been easier and quicker than it was, and its termination, and indeed the whole campaign before Richmond, might have been attended with far different results.

The reports of officers, both Union and Confederate, who took part at Williamsburg, have been published by the government. They are very interesting documents, and are accessible to all who desire to make further study of that battle.

In these recollections it has been the endeavor to omit details and unnecessary references. Williamsburg was no exception to the general run of battles, and it had a fair proportion of incidents, troubles and conspicuous deeds.

The thunder and crash of artillery; the sharp rattle of musketry; the shriek of cannon balls; the bursting of shell; the whistle and thud of bullet; the sight of the dead and dying; the cries of the wounded and the helpless; the set, determined faces of the men; the cheering words of comrades; and the intense physical and mental strain where an age, or a lifetime, is compressed into an hour—are memories which the man with the musket will carry forever.

There were many instances of individual bravery, but the men stood together



so solid and united that it was a *regimental* heroism. Not a man wavered or hesitated, and at roll call that evening every man was present or accounted for.

I can not close without a word for "Old Glory" and its brave guard. The flag was held above us throughout the whole engagement and was not allowed to go down. The color sergeant was severely wounded while carrying the standard, but a tall, sprightly corporal of the guard stepped briskly forward and caught it before it fell and carried it the remainder of that day, and for long after. That corporal is now our companion, Henry Niedecken.

Forty years ago the present day, and almost the present hour, which was two days after the battle of Williamsburg, General McClellan and staff, accompanied by the Comte de Paris and other distinguished officers, visited the 5th Wisconsin for the special purpose of complimenting the regiment. After viewing the parade, General McClellan in closing his address to us at that time, said:

"My lads, I have come to thank you for your gallant conduct the other day: you have gained honors for your Country, your State and the Army. Through you we won the day, and Williamsburg shall be inscribed upon your banner. By your action and superior discipline you have gained a reputation which shall be known throughout the army and the land. Your country owes you its grateful thanks." (Applause).

ARTHUR HOLBROOK,

Late Sergeant, Company "F", 5th Wisconsin Infantry.

Comrade Anderson—I will tell you a little story about General Hancock. You all remember that General Hancock was a pretty strict disciplinarian, and a very forcible talker, and the boys used to say that he never was come up with; that nobody dared talk back to him. But I did see General Hancock come up with pretty well one time. The regiment used to pride itself on being pretty good at foraging, and when we were sent out early in the war at Lewinsville, it was just about the season of the year for gardens to be in full produce. General McClellan had issued very strict orders against foraging, and tried his best to see that they were carried out. One day a little Irishman of my company named Hugh O'Neil, a very reckless sort of a chap, and who, I am sorry to say, afterwards deserted, had been somewhere outside of the picket line, and when he came in, he carried a great big haversack full of all sorts of things, sweet potatoes, and so forth, and he was not satisfied with filling his haversack, but had his arms full. O'Neil was sneaking along past General Hancock's headquarters making for his regiment. As he dodged through between the sheds where the horses were he came face to face with General Hancock. You can imagine better than I can tell you what the colloquy was. But the first inquiry was followed by several others in immediate succession: "Where had he been?" "What was he doing?" "What regiment did he belong to?" And there was no time allowed for an answer. "Where was he going?" and "why didn't he answer?" "Where did he get that stuff that you have got there?" "Answer immediately. Where did you get that stuff?" O'Neil says: "I drew it." And then came a clap of thunder: "Don't answer me that way, Sir! There has not been a vegetable ration issued to this command for a month, how did you draw them?" "By the *tops*, you damned fool." (Laughter).

Chairman Bean—We were speaking of Lieutenant Martin, a little while ago. He was a very gallant officer. We were at White Oak Swamp, and we had to wait. You must remember that the Army of the Potomac was gathered upon itself. It could not get any further. The teams kept getting thicker and thicker all the time. We staid there all day and into the night. Martin was left there with one or two guns with directions to keep firing occasionally, with a view of deceiving the enemy, and it was the understading—General Hancock told me this himself—that Martin was to be sacrificed. He was told to keep up his fire until midnight. The general thought that he would be attended to long before midnight. He was not sacrificed however, but after remaining at his perilous post until midnight, rejoined his battery.

Comrade Anderson—I want to say a word of what occurred to me while Comrade Parry was speaking. Of course it is natural for us to think that, as he said, there was not any corps but the 6th Corps, and no regiment like the 5th Wisconsin, and no company like the company we belonged to, but aside from all that, it is a matter of congratulation to the old men who take a little interest in the history of our movements, that you cannot take up and read any standard history of that period, but what you will find the name of the 5th Wisconsin standing out prominently. And when you consider that we had no newspaper reporters attached to our brig-







ade, or our division, and I think only at one time for a very short time, was there one at corps headquarters, and consider too, that we had a lot of officers who seemed to have been much more familiar with the sword than with the pen from the scarcity of reports which are published by the government; it speaks well for the regiment, that they were able, as an organization, to write their own history in the way they did, without any external aid from any source. The boys of the regiment made the history of the regiment. They were not aided at any time by any outside hand. There was nothing that was manufactured about it. The record of the regiment, the record of its losses, what they achieved, is what makes their standing in history today, and not any exaggeration given it by the writing of any paid reporters.

As I said, there is, of the campaign which was the substance of my paper this morning, not a single official report written by any officer that commanded either regiment, brigade or division during the whole of that period. The only report that is written, or is to be found in the publications of the government, is the report by Colonel, afterwards, General Oliver Edwards, who commanded the brigade only after the Cold Harbor charge, was the one that wrote the account of the operations of the brigade so that there is not a single official report either by a regiment, a brigade or division commander in the public reports of the Government, of the operations of our brigade during that whole period, and you can see what they were from the account that I have given. That is the reason why I took that copy from my diary.

Chairman Bean—What is the further pleasure of the meeting? Possibly, in view of the hour, and the fact that we are to re-convene tomorrow, it might be well now to adjourn.

At 5:20 an adjournment was taken until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

---

## SECOND DAY'S SESSION.

MAY 23, 10 A. M.

The association was called to order by Captain Bean, who said: "It is pleasant to see so many here, and perhaps it will be best to commence our business at once. The secretary has some matters to bring up.

Secretay Engle—Mr. Chairman, and Comrades: At our last years session we passed a resolution, which I will read, and is as follows:

"Since the invention of gunpowder, I believe there has never been a charge made by any troops in any war which exceded in daring and perseverance that made by the 5th Wisconsin, 6th Maine and 31st New York in the storming of Maryes Heights, and you and this association, as well as myself, must feel that it is due to the comrades of 5th Wisconsin that the people of the State of Wisconsin should in a suitable manner, place upon the field of Maryes Heights, a monument in granite and bronze that shall forever perpetuate the valor and soldierly qualities exhibited by Wisconsin soldiers in that affair, and Sir, in pursuance of and with the hope that the State of Wisconsin, or some of its citizens may be induced to furnish such a monument, I would offer to you the following memorial, and move its adoption by this association:

"TO THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF WISCONSIN:

"We, the surviving members of the 5th Wisconsin Infantry, met in our fifteenth annual reunion, desire to represent to you, that we were participants in the great war, and that on the 3d day of May, 1863, an exploit was performed in the storming of Maryes Heights, in Fredericksburg, Va., which was not excelled in bravery, sacrifice, and immediate success by any exploit of American arms, for on that day, three regiments, the 5th Wisconsin, 6th Maine and 31st New York, (the same being a detail from the Light Division of the 6th Army Corps) acting as the storming party, charged the said heights, which were fortified with great skill, and held by a greatly superior number of men.

"In this charge, which occupied but six minutes of time from its beginning to its end, these regiments captured the heights and the stone wall at its base, driving or capturing all its defenders, and taking possession by assault of the 8th Louisiana Confederate Artillery there on duty.

"The defense was gallant but unsuccessful. The total exploit was a splendid exhibit on both sides of American volunteer soldiery.

"The 5th Wisconsin could not have had over 530 officers and men in line during



this charge, and they sustained a loss of 193 officers and men in executing the charge, which is equal to 36½ per cent. of the whole number of men engaged is it.

"That the valor and courage of the men from Wisconsin, as displayed in this charge may be perpetuated, we appeal to you for such subscription of money as will place a suitable monument and markers upon the ground covered by this charge, to the end that the signal services rendered by the Wisconsin troops in this charge of the Light Division, may be recognized and honored by those now living, and by generations that shall follow us."

This resolution was offered by myself, and it has been my idea that we should have a monument on Maryes Heights—one that will perpetuate the part taken by our regiment in the capture of those works.

Of course the 5th Wisconsin did not do all that was done, but it was in the storming party in the centre with the 6th Maine, and 31st New York regiments, and made with them as gallant a charge as ever was made, and it was successful. We lost thirty men killed and nineteen mortally wounded on that field.

A part of the heights that were captured at that time are now included in the National Cemetery, and in this, a monument may be placed thus avoiding the necessity of the purchase of any ground for it to be placed upon.

The 5th Army Corps, under General Butterfield's direction and management is trying to put a monument there to perpetuate the part it took in the battles there.

Fredericksburg is a very historic town, as you all know. It was one of the first points settled by the English in the very early days of emigration to this country. It is also the burial place, as well as the old home of the mother of Washington, and the ladies of the Daughters of the Revolution have placed a beautiful granite shaft on her burial lot.

I believe that we can secure the placing of a suitable monument there if we will appoint a committee that will go to the Legislature next winter and lay the matter before the body in a proper manner, and asking them to appropriate a fund for the purpose.

Comrade Anderson—I would like to ask Comrade Engle if the National Cemetery takes in the Maryes Hill property.

Comrade Engle—It does not take in the Maryes House and grounds proper as now laid off, but it takes in a part of what was Maryes Heights at the time of the battle. The cemetery begins about a hundred yards south of the Maryes House, and almost directly opposite the little house that stands on the stone wall, and directly to our left of this little house is the ground upon which the battery was located that was captured by our regiment and the 6th Maine and 31st New York.

On motion of Comrade Holbrook, a committee of five was appointed to be named by the chairman, who made the following appointments:

General Thomas S. Allen, and Comrades Anderson, Howie, Engle, and Perry.

Comrade Anderson—As you all know, I read a paper on the Wilderness Campaign yesterday afternoon. One of the objects of reading that paper was to invite criticism, and discussion of the paper. This morning something has transpired, in the course of conversation with members of company "C" which clears up a little point of history that was before dark to my mind. That is this. My memorandum which I made at the time, named only four companies that were in the party under command of Major Totten, Companies "A", "F", "D" and "G". This morning, in the course of a conversation, I found that company "C" also was added to that battalion, making even half of the regiment. Now that agrees with the report that Colonel Edwards made in regard to that movement, in which he says there were five companies of the regiment detached with Major Totten.

Of course I relied on the entry which I made at the time, but with the marching through the wilderness, three to four paces apart, it would be impossible for one man on that line to know very much about the details of what went on at the other end of it. So I will be obliged to correct that paper, and add Company "C" to the list of those that were with Major Totten in that movement.

Now, I would like, if any other comrade should have any criticism to make upon it, to have it done. I have never been altogether certain whether company "F" was there or not, but I am quite sure.

Chairman Bean—Colonel Butterfield can enlighten us.

Comrade Butterfield—Company "F". I remember very distinctly of Major Totten coming to me—I had charge of Company "G", and Company "F", two companies. And Totten says, "You take these five companies, the left wing, and I will take the right wing of the regiment, and he moved off to the right, and I don't think that Company "F" was in with Totten at that time. We were in the line of





battle, in the rear line. It was the left wing of the regiment, and it was the right wing I had charge of. We were in the right wing.

Comrade Anderson—Company "A" was in the right wing. Now, the fact of the matter is this, as far as I can work the matter out in my own mind, I think that the companies were pushed out as skirmishers with out regard to position. We were attacked right in line of battle, and marching by the right flank. I think that companies were pushed right out without regard to their formation in line. I know that Company "A" was shoved right out as quick as possible from the head of the regiment, right forward from where we were attacked, and we were alone for some time, until by some movement or other we joined onto some other company. I know, at least, Company "A" was there; Company "D" was there, because Captain White had charge of that detail, and Company "E" was there, because Captain Hilton was along. Who was the other, fifth, company? That is on the 5th of May.

Comrade Butterfield—Now, I will tell you, on the 5th. I have got my diary here, that was made then. I will read what I have in my diary of that day, on the 5th of May: "Weather very pleasant. Was up at five. Marched at six. Went about five miles, and about ten and a half o'clock met the enemy, and had hard fighting. I lost one man killed and fourteen wounded. Loss in regiment, one hundred and four. Formed line and remained all night. So much firing that there was very little sleep." That was on the 5th.

Comrade Anderson—No, you are mistaken.

Comrade Butterfield—Well, I put that down before I slept.

Comrade Anderson—Yes, you are right. We broke camp on the 4th.

Comrade Butterfield—Then, on the 6th, I have got: "Captain Bissell wounded. He stood by the side of me when he was wounded. He spun around like a top." That was on the 6th. "The bugle sounded forward, and on the advance very little forward. Formed a line. Heard heavy firing. Began to fight. Lost thirty-eight men in the regiment. Captain Bissell was wounded. At most dark the enemy turned our right flank, and about eleven we got up and moved. Marched about six and a half miles around to the right and formed a line."

Comrade Anderson—That agrees with my statement. But the question is, now, the official reports say there were five companies in that wilderness. I always supposed "F" was one of them, on the 5th.

Comrade Butterfield—On the 5th.

Comrade Anderson—So that, as a matter of fact, the official report of Colonel Edwards is correct, and there were five—Company "C"—that makes five companies that were engaged in that little movement, whereby the 25th Virginia and colors were captured. That makes Companies "A", "C", "D", "F" and "G".

A Comrade—I remember the circumstances about Company "F", and I never can forget it, and I know "F" was there. I was in Company "D".

Chairman Bean—Any more suggestions in the way of correcting or confirming the paper read by Judge Anderson yesterday? The jury can not help but think that the evidence submitted by Comrade Butterfield is of the highest type, and as our friend and lawyer, Comrade Perry, would say: "A memorandum made at the time".

Comrade Perry—Made in his own hand writing. If it is not disputed within thirty years, it ought to be good evidence. I believed that the evidence should be received.

Chairman Bean—Comrade Engle has a paper on the battle of Williamsburg. He will read it to us now, and we will fight that battle over again.

Comrade Engle—Mr. President and Comrades: I have not prepared a very extended paper on the battle of Williamsburg. In arranging what I have, I have had in view more the getting up of a discussion on that battle, than in giving an extended history of it.

Yesterday there was a great deal said by different comrades in praise of the American soldier as he was in our old soldier days, and as he is today. This view of the soldier has been one that has occupied much of my thought of late. I think we come by our soldierly qualities very naturally. I have been looking over the history written by Bryant covering the Colonial days, and earlier, of the people who were our forefathers and who were the earlier settlers on this Continent. Bryant goes into the details of their life and experiences quite extensively. Especially as to the fighting of the Indians and the trouble among the different settlers between themselves, and as I read this history it is plain to me that their trials and hardships, their bravery and sufferings left their mark upon the genera-



tions that have followed them, and it is this that has made the American soldier as we knew him and as he is known today by this people.

Comrade Perry—And the world.

Comrade Engle—And by the world if you please. Our forefathers every day life, every day experiences were such that they had to be fighters, they had to be brave, they had to be resolute. As their offspring we very naturally took on their personal qualities.

To begin with, I think that it is not probably known to many members of the regiment that the 5th Wisconsin is entitled to the credit of being the first to discover that Johnston's army was leaving, or had left, the Yorktown line. Comrade James L. Parkinson, of Company "B", who was detailed to assist the engineer in establishing distances from our batteries to those of the enemy, was sent out by an engineer officer, from near the right of Lee's Mills to a point around to the left of that work, with instructions to try and get to a point where he could get a measurement with his instruments whereby they might arrive at the proper distance from our batteries to that of the enemies. Parkinson went around to the left of the open field in front of Lee's Mills, passed out through our picket lines, and under a sharpshooter's fire, succeeded in reaching a rifle pit that had been made, and was occasionally used by our sharpshooters outside our pickets, in front of which there was a little earthwork, thrown up for the purpose of protection of one or two men. Owing to the sharpshooter's knowing of his position, he was obliged to keep under cover all day, and remained in the same position throughout the night. Along early in the morning, before daylight, he discovered somebody coming up toward him from the front, and discovering it to be but one man, he waited until the man got close to him, and then in a whisper halted him. The man turned out to be an old darkey who was trying to work his way into our lines and to inform us of Johnston's retreat. Parkinson took him, intending to hurry him to General Smith's headquarters, but was halted at our picket lines, and came very nearly being detained there, but he insisted on being sent directly to General Smith, the darkey accompanying him. General Smith being given the information gained by Parkinson, immediately telegraphed to General McClellan at Yorktown, who at once started an investigation in his front, and in about twenty minutes afterwards, heard from General Porter that the Confederates, under General Johnston had evacuated, therefore, the 5th Wisconsin was twenty minutes ahead in giving the information of Johnston's abandonment of his works.

On the morning of May 4th, 1862, General McClellan found the works in his front on the Yorktown line deserted by the army of Johnston. General McClellan at once started a part of his army in pursuit. General Stoneman, with his brigade of cavalry, and four batteries of light horse artillery, moved in advance on the road from Yorktown to Williamsburg, followed by Kerney's and Hooker's divisions of infantry. Smith's, Couch's and Casey's divisions went forward by the road from Lee's Mills to Williamsburg. Stuart's cavalry covered the retreat of the Confederates, and skirmished with our advance as it moved on towards Williamsburg.

A couple of miles east of Williamsburg, was a line of works disconnected, extending from Queen's Creek, on the north, to College Creek on the south. The principal one of these works was called Fort Magruder, and was in the center of the line, and at a point about a half mile in its front, the roads from Yorktown and Lee's Mills came together. Johnston left two brigades of McLaw's division at Fort Magruder to support the cavalry of Stuart.

It is not my intention to follow up the history of the Peninsula campaign in general beyond the intersection of these roads, the details of which can be found in all histories of the movements and the battles fought in front of and to the right of Fort Magruder, and will take up the story of the part taken in the battle of Williamsburg, by Hancock's brigade, and especially of the part taken by the 5th Wisconsin, which formed a part of that brigade—the only brigade that General Hancock ever commanded.

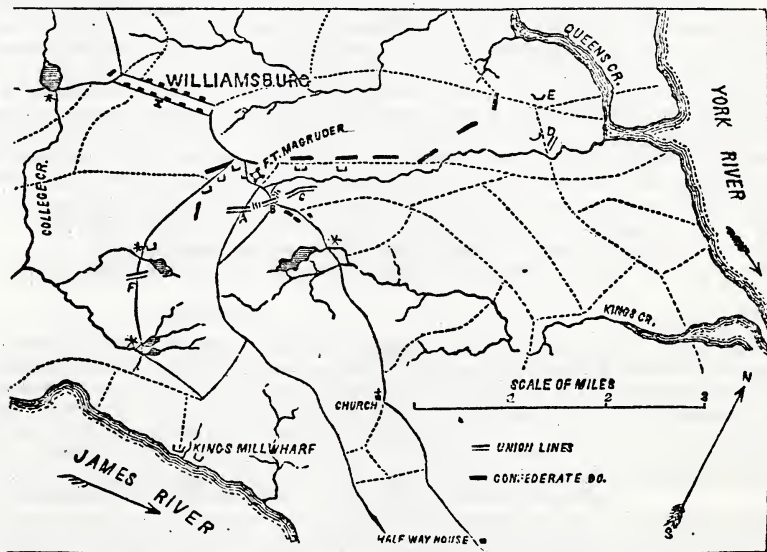
Information seems to have reached General Sumner, who was in command of all the troops of our army at Williamsburg—General McClellan being in Yorktown—that a flank movement could be successfully made on the Confederate left flank. Two redoubts immediately on the left of Fort Magruder, were occupied by the Confederates, but still further to their left were two other redoubts which they had not as yet occupied, the extreme southerly one of which commanded the passage over Cub Creek, at a mill dam, one of the few avenues of approach to this part of the Confederate line.







Between ten and eleven o'clock A. M., General Hancock, with the 5th Wisconsin, 49th Pennsylvania, 6th and 7th Maine and 33d New York, and one section of Cowan's, 1st Independent New York Battery of rifled guns, was ordered to make a detour, in order to assail the Confederate left. Hancock crossed the dam at Cub Creek, at about eleven o'clock, and passed the redoubt, and advanced to the second redoubt. This brought him to the point where he could reach the Confederate troops in the line of their works immediately south of Fort Magruder. Hancock now threw out his brigade in echelon with a part—four companies of the 5th Wisconsin—as skirmishers, the remaining six companies acting as a reserve for the skirmishers. (See General Cobb's description of this formation and his description of incidents in the battle beginning on page 25 of the report of the proceedings of Association Fifth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, fifteenth annual reunion.) The skirmishers advanced some half to three-quarters of a mile beyond the second redoubt, and took to cover behind an old rail fence that crossed the field from the timber on their left flank, to near the house and sheds which were well to the right of their line. General R. H. Anderson's brigade held the line of the extreme Confederate left, and the artillery fire kept up by Cowan's battery annoyed him very much, and at about five o'clock P. M., General Early was ordered to make an attack upon Hancock's command, in order to silence his battery. Early's brigade



was formed with the 5th North Carolina on the right, and the 23d North Carolina, 38th Virginia and 24th Virginia, in the order named, toward the left. General D. B. Hill, to whose division Early's brigade belonged, took charge in person, of the two regiments on the right (the 5th North Carolina and the 23d North Carolina) and Early took command of the two on the left, (the 38th and 24th Virginia regiments). I notice in passing that this brigade was lead, not alone by the regimental commanders, but that these were assisted by the two best fighting generals that were developed on the Confederate side during the great war. The 5th Wisconsin, which bore the brunt of the charge of this brigade. I think may justly feel proud of the part that it took in resisting, as they did, the advance of the Confederates. It is claimed by a very prominent officer of the Army of Northern Virginia, that this brigade drove Hancock's brigade before them to the crest at the redoubt where the brigade of Hancock made a stand, and they were repulsed.

Now, the facts are, as we all know who were there, that there was no resistance offered to the advance of the Confederates, except that given by the 5th Wisconsin. As I remember it, the 5th Wisconsin opened fire upon the enemy as soon as they came within reach of our Austrian rifles and we kept up the fire the best that we knew how to do, and our falling back was very slow, and the results of our work must have told on the Confederates severely. I am sure that the 5th Wisconsin



never acted better in battle than they did during the battle of Williamsburg. It seemed to me that every man was cool and collected, and was fighting the battle on his own account.

Lieutenant Colonel Wm. Allan, then Chief of Ordinance, Army of Northern Virginia, in his "Army of Northern Virginia"—a very fair statement of the movements of that army, as well as those of the army of the Potomac during the year 1862, says: "The 24th Virginia charged directly upon the Federals, forcing them back to the redoubt on the top of the hill, while the 5th North Carolina, under Colonel McRae, gallantly moved up to their assistance on the right. Early fell desperately wounded at the head of the 24th Virginia, but these two regiments continued to advance until within twenty yards of the redoubt. The Federal regiments had been steadily forced back. The guns had been hurriedly withdrawn to the crest, and Hancock finding it impossible to promptly get them into position, then had ordered them still further to the rear, while he rallied his infantry, now massed to check the advance of the Confederates."

When the Confederates began their advance they were at once discovered by the pickets along the line of the fence referred to, and we opened upon them. That part of the skirmish line where I was did not fall back to the colors, but we held our ground the best we could, and fell back directly to our rear as we were forced back, and when I finally got back to the line of battle at the crest, I fell into ranks of the 49th Pennsylvania, and joined them in helping to repulse the Confederates, which of course was but the work of a very few moments after the skirmishers were in line with the line of battle. When the Confederate line broke and had gone from our front as an advancing line, a large—very large—percent. of which lay in our front, either dead or wounded, I discovered a Confederate officer of the line laying with his head towards our line, and very near to it, so near that it caused me to try to demonstrate the distance from the front line of the 49th Pennsylvania, to his head, and found it to be five and a half paces, or about seventeen feet. Brave boys they were, and gallantly did they come up against our deadly fire on that 5th day of May, 1862.

The 24th Virginia lost in killed, 30; wounded, 93; missing, 66.. 189

The 38th Virginia lost in killed, 0; wounded, 8; missing, 1..... 9

These were the two regiments led by General Early.

The 23d Virginia lost five wounded and three missing..... 8

Aggregate..... 206

The 5th North Carolina. Of the losses of this regiment there is no report. Colonel McRae, in his report refers to a list of casualties made a part of his report, but his report of casualties has never been found by the War Department. Colonel McRae, however, says in his report: "My regiment is now so reduced as to be inefficient. I beg it may be specially supplied."

It is undoubtedly a fact, as I and all who were there at the time, felt that with the losses in killed and wounded, and the several hundred captured, that the 5th North Carolina, for the time being, was almost out of service.

I hope that in the discussion to follow this paper, we may have the recollections of many of the comrades, as to these losses, as they then understood them. I myself have a remembrance of the captured of this regiment being placed at the time at 244.

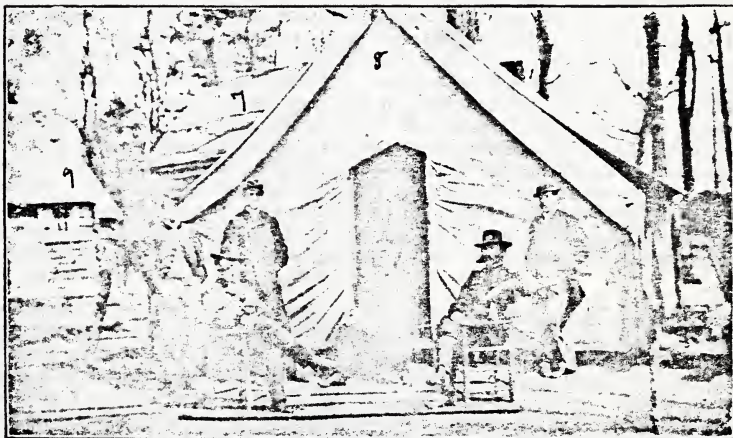
Now, if I may be excused for so doing, I will give some of my personal experiences and observations of instances that transpired as I saw them. They may be of some interest to you.

At about the time we reached the second redoubt from the dam, I had occasion to leave the ranks and I got left behind. As I passed along toward the front I came up with General Hancock, and some of his staff. Asking the whereabouts of the 5th Wisconsin, I was informed it was in the advance, and it was pointed out to me. Going on I found the six companies on the skirmish reserve and was informed that Company "A" was on the skirmish line, which I soon found had taken cover behind the rail fence reaching toward the left from the houses and negro quarters. I advanced on a line running about one hundred feet to the left of the houses until I got within about two hundred feet of the fence, at which time some dozen or so of the enemies' skirmishers opened upon me with their rifles. At this I stooped as low as I could and ran for the fence which I reached, escaping the flying bullets intended for me.

Soon after I reached the fence our ten pound parrets got to work, and I soon found that I was directly in range of the cannon balls going from our guns and







**HEADQUARTERS MAJOR-GENERAL JOHN SEDGWICK.**  
 (Near Brandy Station, Winter 1862-3)

Captain A. T. Scoville, General Sedgwick, Major Chas. A. Whittier, General M. T. McMahon, General Getty, Captain E. C. Pierce. 7. Adjutant General Clerks. 8. General Sedgwick's Tent. 9. Whittier and Pierce quarters.



coming from those of the enemy, and passing over my head. At my side lay Corporal Cochems, of Company "A", and as it became evident that the Confederates were lowering their pieces and that their shots were coming down closer and closer to us I suggested to Cochems that he pass word down to the captain asking if we should not leave a gap in our line for their solid shot to pass. The corporal did not like to do so, nor did I, we were both afraid that we would be thought cowardly if we did so. While we were discussing the matter one of the solid shots struck the ground a few rods in our front and "skipped", passed thorough the top rail of the fence directly over our heads and covered us with pieces of the broken and, luckily for us, rotten rails. I decided, *at once*, that I should move, and I raised up to do so I saw a second shot strike the ground about where the first had—I threw myself over the corporals back landing in the next fence corner, and as I went I glanced back over my right shoulder, and to my horror, I saw Cochems about fifteen feet up in the air. The shot had passed under the bottom rail of the fence and raising under Cochems breast throwing him, as stated, high in the air and he struck the ground fully thirty-five feet from the spot where he had lain an instant before.

It was not long after this that the charge was made upon us. The Confederate line was in view from the start, and we soon began to send our Austrian rifle bullets after them, which we continued to do until we had been driven back to the line of battle at the crest and near the redoubt. As already stated, we fell back very slowly loading and firing as fast as we could at the approaching line. I fired nineteen times as shown by the cartridges left in my cartridge box after the battle was over.

I had thought a great deal before going into this our first real battle, as to what the effect was to be on me when we should finally get into a battle and I had thought when I found myself in one that I would, in the midst of it somewhere, stop and take account of my feelings and condition as to how scared I would be, etc. This resolution came to mind after I had got back to the line of battle and I immediately dropped my rifle down with the butt of it across my toe and made the examination I had contemplated. While doing this I noticed Comrade David C. Eddy of Company "A" laying dead behind me, he had evidently been near me all the way back from the front but I had not noticed him up to this time. At this time also General Hancock, came dashing down upon his seventeen-hands-high sorrel horse, a magnificent picture of a soldier, and as he passed along he was calling out to the boys in line: "Give them H—ll boys, give them H—ll" etc. (Applause.)

(NOTE—From a history, discovered by me since our meeting, written of the 5th North Carolina, by its Colonel—now The Honorable James C. MacRae, Judge of the Supreme Court of North Carolina—the following extract is taken.

[Histories of the several regiments and battalions from North Carolina, in the great war 1861-5, Page 285.] "It would extend this sketch too much to mention the gallant boys who were here (Williamsburg) at the threshold of the conflict, laid down their lives. Four hundred and fifteen men were counted as they went into action; seventy-five answered the roll call in the morning, and nearly all the missing were either killed or wounded. General Hancock, who commanded the Federals in their front, said of the 5th North Carolina and 24th Virginia, '*They should have IMMORTALITY inscribed on their banners*'".

From this report of Colonel McRae, it seems that the losses of his regiment was exactly eighty-two per cent. of the men engaged. Whether his account includes officers I cannot be positive. If it does not the losses of the 5th North Carolina at Williamsburg exceed those of any other regiment on either side during the whole war.

It is remarkable that Captain Butterfield's account of the losses of the 5th North Carolina should agree exactly with the number not accounted for the next morning (May 6) by Colonel James C. McRae—Geo. B. Engle, Jr., Secretary.)

Comrade Butterfield—In hearing these papers read, I just referred to my diary of these dates, in regard to one point of Comrade Holbrook yesterday, as to getting out of rations. My diary says, we had nothing to eat on the 3d and 4th, and we did not get anything until the 6th when our wagons came up. But on the 5th my little book says that we took two forts, and the killed was twelve and the wounded was sixty-six in our regiment. And under the date of the 6th I have this record, "We found in burying the dead about 200 Confederates dead, and prisoners taken 215." And then there is a record here of the wounding in our company of Cole, Smith and Heath and then the next day was the death of Charley Cole. Then a dress parade, when General McClellan complimented us for our conduct on the 5th.





A Comrade—Mr. President: One or two little points the comrade has got wrong. He speaks of going south to get to the redoubt. Am I right?

Secretary Engle—Yes.

A Comrade—That is north, towards the York River.

Chairman Bean—At right angle from the top of the hill.

A Comrade—Then you turned south towards Fort Magruder. But he mentions, in crossing one little creek, he went to the south; instead of that it should be to the north.

Secretary Engle—Perhaps I had that wrong, but I think not.

Comrade DeClark—Comrade Engle speaks of the coolness which the skirmishers displayed as they fought and retreated to the line of battle. I want to say a word or two in this connection. There was a young man by the name of Henry Douglas, a member of Company "D", who at the time was in his seventeenth year. On his way back he found that his rifle would not fire—its priming having become wet—and he deliberately sat down on the wet and muddy ground and picked out the nipple and reprimed it. This was noticed by several men of his company and others. Young Douglas was taken sick, and died, not long after in his mother's arms, at a hospital in Philadelphia. His remains were taken to Beaver Dam, Wis., and he was buried there. Company "D" placed a monument at his grave with this inscription upon it—"The hero of Williamsburg".

Captain Bean—He took the nipple off, I saw him do it.

I want to say a word in regard to the paper that has been read, and the remarks that have been made since.

Now in regard to the charge—it was published in the New York papers that General Hancock rode along the lines, and in a superb manner said: "Gentlemen, charge." That is all a myth. There was no charge made. The real reason for the flight and defeat of the enemy was that Hancock, very greatly to his credit, had got his men in good shape. They flanked both sides of the fort, and there were men inside of the fort. They were restless, awaiting a clear atmosphere from their front. The moment that it cleared, they fired with terrific effect. They were cool. They did not fire too high, and I don't think it was five minutes, after we unmasked our own troops, before the enemy fled from the field.

I have heard it said several times that the 5th North Carolina never made any report of their missing. And the reason of it occurs to me is, that there was nobody to make any report. (Laughter.)

It reminds me of the case of a couple of young men who were away out in the far West. One day one of them was killed suddenly. His comrade telegraphed to his parents in Chicago, that he had been killed. He didn't give any particulars. The parents naturally wired back to send the remains home. The response to that telegram was: "There are no remains. He was kicked by a mule." (Laughter.)

Now, I think that is the trouble with the 5th North Carolina. They were kicked by a mule, a very vicious one, known as the old 5th Wisconsin.

The secretary said that he had written to the War Department, and could not obtain any information as to the 5th North Carolina's losses at Williamsburg.

Comrade Anderson referred the secretary to the 2d Volume of Southern Historical papers.

Comrade Brand said information could be obtained from the Adjutant General's Office of North Carolina, by writing for it.

(Note—On April 1st, the secretary addressed a letter to our comrade, T. C. Ryan, asking him to get something ready for the May meeting of our association on the battle of Williamsburg, and asking him as to his memory of some circumstances connected with that battle. Comrade Ryan sent in reply the following letter. By some unaccountable failure of mails, Comrade Ryan did not receive his notice of the meeting and therefore did not know of it until after it had been held. The letter is full of interest and is therefore placed in our report as a valuable contribution to our Williamsburg discussion.

"WAUSAU, WIS., April 2., 1902.

"GEORGE B. ENGLE,

"Dear Comrade—I have your favor of the 1st inst. I also received six copies of the report of 1901 reunion of the 5th Wisconsin. I am very much obliged for them. It is an excellent report.

"I will accept your invitation to prepare something, either written or oral, for the next reunion. As you are preparing a paper upon the battle of Williamsburg, and I know as much as one private soldier who took part in that battle can possibly



know from start to finish, and as I remember it as vividly as if it happened yesterday, and can probably relate some incidents that happened close to me which others may not have observed, I will, if you wish, give my personal reminiscences, following your paper.

"The attack upon our right in the late afternoon of May 5th, 1862, was borne almost entirely by the 5th Wisconsin. I was on the skirmish line. Immediately in front of us was a small rise of ground which concealed everything beyond, and concealed the enemy's troops until they made their appearance on its top,—perhaps fifteen rods from us. I had never before been on a skirmish line under similar circumstances and at the moment it slipped my mind that the correct caper was to fire and fall back. I knew it was all right to fire, which I tried to do, but my rifle refused to go off. I glanced right and left to see what my comrades were doing, they were not there; I glanced behind me and saw them in a rapid retreat for the reserve of the regiment stationed some distance back near a house. Things had happened quickly. I rose to the occasion, and though I had lost valuable time and was handicapped by several rods in the race for the reserve, I did not despair; started out on a double quick that would beat any band I ever heard. It would seem that the fence along which the skirmish line was deployed had concealed me from the advancing Confederates: for as soon as I got away from it I thought by the number of bullets that whistled around me that I had been fired at by at least one regiment. I suppose it could not have been so, for at that time not more than a quarter of that particular regiment of Confederates had got over the hill, and a good many of them had already fired. But even a score of charges of bullets and buck shot flying as close as they are apt to when they are fired at you, start a fellow's imagination into a lively gait. However, I escaped that fusillade and got behind a barn. There I spent a few seconds plugging the tube of my rifle with a piece of dry match. Then I plunged out, keeping the barn as well as I could between me and the Confederate force I have referred to, and running off diagonally towards our left. Thus I soon came between two fires, for another regiment of the enemy which I had not before observed was advancing in the left of the field and exchanging shots with us. The bullets were not flying very thick, however, and I made my way in safety towards the rest of our boys whom I came up with a little to the rear of the house. I felt mighty glad to be with them. We fought the Confederates all the way back across the field, retreating slowly, firing as we fell back. I personally know that the orders, repeatedly given, to fall back, were not obeyed with any sort of alacrity, and at the time I figured out the reason why. In the part of the field where I was we were in a complete hotch potch. There were no companies, there were officers and soldiers all mixed up. No officer (of Company 'G' for instance) could say 'Company "G", fall back' for there was no Company 'G'. There were men of Company 'G' (my own company) and of other companies, close to me. It seemed like a privates' battle. An instance will illustrate this. On my way back with the others, loading and firing, I passed a little chap belonging to some other company, who was sitting down in the mud tinkering with his gun. It had gone back on him in same way that mine had, and he was fixing it so it would go. Colonel Cobb happened along about then, and noticing the coolness of the young fellow, patted him on the head and said something. I was close enough to hear, but have forgotten what he said. A retreat which permitted such goings-on was, of course, a pretty slow one. It was slow enough so that the Confederates gained upon us rapidly and were quite close by the time our regiment joined the rest of the brigade.

"Finally, when the regiment did get back to where the rest of the brigade was—a minute or so after I was wounded and left on the field—there was a sharp volley from the brigade; the Confederates dropped on the other side of the few rails left standing of that old fence; for perhaps three minutes there was a fusillade back and forth. then I heard a cheer, and in about five seconds, or possibly ten seconds, there was the whole caboodle of blue coats about me, for the place where I was dropped happened (unpleasantly for me) to be the very place where the enemy was checked and made their momentary stand. I was on one side of the old fence, just to the right of two gate posts that stood there without any gate. The last few minutes fusillade was more terrible for me than all the rest of the battle. I laid down flat on my back, stretched myself out as thin as I could, and put my knapsack up beside my head. Rebel muskets were pushed through between the bottom rails of the fence over me. I stood in no danger from them, but I was in great danger of the fire of my own comrades who were firing very low at the enemy lying upon the ground beside me. A Confederate officer, a slim little chap, might weigh one hundred and twenty, not more than that—and young, under







twenty, I should judge, attracted my attention during that last brief and terrible fusillade. He was a handsome young man, or boy, rather, had a charming expression of face, and such a brave fellow. His comrades were all lying flat, trying as best they could to hide themselves behind the few remaining rails of the fence—a protection more imaginary than real. He did not lie down. He knelt, but kept his body and head as erect as if on dress parade, and kept his sword at a shoulder arms, and looked steadily and unflinchingly at the solid line of blue coats which stood not more than ten or twelve rods away. I remember how I feared that boy would get shot, and how relieved I felt when it was all over and he escaped injury. Even the strife of battle does not always prevent the alchemy whereby 'a touch of nature makes the whole world kin'. In striking contrast to him was one of his comrades, whose heart, as I should judge from his behaviour, was very far from the Confederate cause. About two rods from that fence, and just at the moment when the brigade fired its first volley, he fell backwards and laid prone upon his back, the soles of his big, red, bare feet pointed toward our line. He cried out continually, 'My God, I am killed. I am killed'. I surely thought the man had received a mortal wound. The moment our men reached the Confederate line in that last charge this man jumped up as if nothing ailed him, and ran quickly to one of our boys saying, 'I want to go with you sir.' Evidently he was an unwilling 'reb', and he had planned to be left as wounded on the field in case of the retreat, which he made up his mind was inevitable. And he judged rightly, all that prevented the retreat was that they had come so near us that they could not get away. I did not see but one man make any effort to get away. A tall, raw-boned, slouching man. I had to laugh at him. There were blue coats all round him, and they all seemed to be busy taking prisoners or looking after the wounded. He rose up slowly and crouching as if he were trying to hide himself in tall grass, began to walk off. It seemed so ludicrous that any man who had a bit of wit should try to hide himself by crouching there right in the midst of our soldiers. I suppose it was prompted by instinct rather than thought. The major of the 6th Maine rode out and headed him off.

'The Johnnies had not time to get on their feet after the 'huzza' before our men were there. All were killed, wounded or captured, at that particular part of the field. What happened to the left or right of me I could not see much of while I was lying upon the field, but during the stubborn fight which our regiment gave the whole line of the enemy across that field, I gave an occasional glance to right and left, and saw none except the 5th Wisconsin boys doing any work on our side. Every man was cool and collected, apparently entirely so. It was an ideal situation for a panic and rout, on account of the confusion—the mixture of men of different companies, I before referred to, but there was no one who seemed anxious to take advantage of the situation for that purpose. On the contrary, every man seemed to enjoy the opportunity of being his own captain. I have since heard that there was a New York regiment on one of our flanks during the fight that took some part in it. I was surprised to hear it, for it was not observed by me, nor was I told of it afterwards by any of the comrades who came to see me. Their understanding was just like mine,—that the 5th practically sustained the brunt of the battle on that part of the field. So far, therefore, as my personal observation goes, I must corroborate your view that no regiment of the brigade but ours had anything to do with that fight except during the last two or three minutes—and that the balance of the brigade could not possibly have anything to do with it before that, as the 5th Wisconsin was between them and the enemy, until about two or three minutes before the battle ended.

Yours truly,

"T. C. RYAN."

Comrade Holbrook—There seems to be a little lull. I met General King, and he wated me to present his kindest regards, and love to the members of the old 5th Wisconsin. He said he was occupied today, in completing a novel, a historical novel, which brought in the Iron Brigade, and he had to send the last pages in today.

Chairman Bean called Vice-President Howie to the chair.

Comrade Bean presented the following resolutions which were unanimously adopted by a rising vote:

*Resolved*, By the Association of the Survivors of the Fifth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, now here in session, that we send our respectful greeting to Major General William F. Smith, together with our thanks for a communication from him relating to his first command in the Army of the Potomac; that we have a



grateful remembrance of General Smith as our commander during the first year of our service in the army, and that watching with fond interest his subsequent career during the war of the rebellion, we regarded him then, as we do now, as an officer of exceptional abilities.

*Resolved, further,* That in the effort which we are advised is now being made to correct a portion of his military history, we tender him our cordial support and sympathy, and that it is our earnest hope, to the end that simple justice may be done to one of the most brilliant and capable officers of the army, that that effort may be successful.

Comrade Anderson—Mr. Chairman, returning to the topic of the battle of Williamsburg, I can probably give a little light upon that matter from a different point of view than almost any other person of the regiment that was present that day. Some of you may know that Sergeant Rickaby and myself were taken prisoners, early in the morning, when we were out in the woods between the two lines, and we were disarmed, at that time the fight had not opened up. Straggled behind the regiment and found our way across the dam, up to the redoubt. We could not very well go any further, because it was too close for comfort, and we stopped back at that redoubt. There we looked at the struggle from a point where we could take it all in, a sort of a birds-eye view of the whole field.

Now, it looked to me like this, when the rebels first came in sight, the skirmishers had been secreted, and lay along that rail fence, and right down into the woods a short distance, where I could not see, it seemed as if that rail fence, all of a sudden began to puff with smoke, just like jets from steam pipes. As the rebels came on, the boys began to get up, one after the other, and they would go back a little way.

There was something said by our comrade, Holbrook, in his paper, about there being no sort or semblance, of order. The boys on that skirmish line would load and fire, and run back loading. You could see the boys go back walking and, ram the bullets down, and all the time turn their heads to see just how fast these rebels were coming, and it was flat, loose ground, and very wet and muddy, so that the walking was heavy, and when they would get their bullets down, they would not take time to get their rammer back. They would hold it in their hand, put on the cap and then turn around, and you would see them take as cool an aim, as if they were firing at a target. And it seemed to me, that every time I saw a puff of smoke arise from one of these skirmishers, I could see a corresponding man drop from the lines that were coming on. Then as the boys got back there seemed to be, of course, a certain amount of confusion, and they would rally on their supports. The men ran up and the supports kind of loosened out, and the boys just simply hung along that line pretty well up to the front of these advancing regiments, and they kept firing, and the men opposite to them kept dropping. But they kept coming. There were a few shots came from the Confederate lines, but it seemed to be more in the nature of straggling shots, men that could not stand it any longer, and wanted to fire.

Now while there was no regular dress parade, or skirmish drill, there was a pretty strong line up to a certain point, and then they seemed to gather in towards the supports, and the line got thicker and heavier, and the firing from the boys was more in the nature of a volley. When they got so, they fired at will. But the firing was heavier. It was a heavy battalion fire, at that part. They seemed to bunch up into three bodies at one time, but they finally got back by spreading out from each of these supports, back to the line of battle. But there was not anything that you could characterize as disorder. There was not anything like a rout, or anything like a panic. It was a good, fair, fighting line, just as effective a fighting line as we had many and many a time afterwards when we became thoroughly inured to moving around under fire. That is the way it looked to me, and the battle was really won, in my opinion, not on account of the charge, because, practically there was no charge, but by that skirmish line. There was an advance of some part of the line. I don't know whether it was the 5th Wisconsin that advanced towards the rebels. The battle was really won by the tenacity with which these skirmishers hung to the advancing line and kept dropping those men. They were all broken up, disorganized, and thrown into disorder long before they got up.

Comrade Bean—You refer to the skirmish line?

Comrade Anderson—Yes.

Comrade Bean—The claim is they used a battery.

Comrade Anderson—The battery never fired a shot after they changed position.







Comrade Bean—Did the skirmishers rally back on the reserve, or did they go clear back to the fort?

Comrade Anderson—Just as I have been saying. The skirmishers rolled back towards the reserves, in other words, they seemed to aim without any particular order to get to the body of the men that was nearest to them, and they would form on the right and left without any apparent order, of these reserves, and the reserves then seemed to loosen out and give them room to get in almost anywhere. It seems to me that that was the way that the boys of Company "D" or whatever was reserves would gather in the boys from Company "G" and "G"—that was on the skirmish line would gather into their ranks almost anywhere. And then the reserve line really became the skirmish line, and the skirmish line and supports went back again, and they strung out, and kept getting back.

Comrade Bean—A skirmish line almost entirely.

Chairman Howie—I would like to ask the comrade if he remembers about the distance that Fort Magruder was to this redoubt?

Comrade Anderson—Well, I should say somewhere from one-half to three-quarters of a mile.

Comrade Bean—From the second redoubt?

Comrade Anderson—Between the two redoubts and Fort Magruder?

Comrade Bean—No.

Comrade Anderson—The rail fence, the little house was just about half way. It was really, less than a good rifle shot from the one redoubt to the rail fence.

Secretary Engle—There were two redoubts.

Comrade Anderson—I am speaking of the nearer.

Secretary Engle—There were two redoubts on the Confederate side. Between the rail fence and Fort Magruder there were two redoubts.

Comrade Bean—That was not occupied. The one in front of our reserves, was that fort occupied?

Secretary Engle—I do not know whether that was occupied or not. Their skirmishers were outside.

Comrade Bean—They were finally.

Secretary Engle—They were all the time, before we had been across the dam twenty minutes—the skirmishers that fired at me first, as I went down to that rail fence—they were in line at short range. They were down in the holes of the ground so we could not see them. But if a man stuck his head up he would be shoot at.

Comrade Anderson—The comrade is right. There were little short rifle pits.

Comrade Bean—That had been there all day.

Comrade Anderson—Little short rifle pits.

Secretary Engle—Little short holes in the ground, just thrown up for one or two men.

Chairman Howie—I was stationed at that little house, and I think Fort Magruder was a long distance, and I should say it was a mile or a mile and a half.

Secretary Engle—I have just received a letter by special delivery from our dear old comrade, Charles A. Clark, of Cedar Rapids, which I will read.

"CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA, May 27, 1902.

MY DEAR ENGLE:

"It is impossible for me to get to Milwaukee to attend the reunion of the dear old 5th Wisconsin. I regret it more than words can express, and I send most cordial greetings to every survivor of that matchless body of men who may be present.

"During my summer vacation I hope to take up a careful study of the exploits of our "twin regiments," and prepare something of more permanent value than anything that I could offer now.

"Mrs. Clark, who is in California, reports a pleasant interview with General Cobb, and that he is in good health in spite of his manifold family afflictions.

"God bless the 5th Wisconsin. May your reunion be successful and happy.

"Your Comrade of the 6th Maine,

"CHAS. A. CLARK.

"To Geo. B. Engle, Jr., 5th Wisconsin."

A motion was adopted extending the thanks of the association to the Loyal Legion, for the use of their rooms at this session.



On motion, made by Captain Bean, the following were elected honorary members of the association:

General William F. Smith.  
Colonel Charles A. Clark.  
General Charles McEntee.  
Captain James D. Campbell.

On motion, made by Comrade Bean, the secretary was instructed to telegraph the congratulations of the association to General Wm. F. Smith.

At 12:35 the association adjourned *sine die*.

After the close of the meeting the following telegram was sent to General Smith:

"MILWAUKEE, May 28, 1902.

"MAJOR GENERAL WM. F. SMITH,

"1013 Clinton Street, Philadelphia:

"The Fifth Wisconsin, in reunion assembled, send congratulations, and best wishes to their old commander, with thanks for his kindly letter.

(Signed.)

"GEO. B. ENGLE, JR., Secretary."

The following letter was duly received by the secretary:

"1013 CLINTON STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA., May 30, 1902.

"GEO. B. ENGLE, JR., Secretary:

"Dear Sir—Your dispatch was duly received and was heartily welcomed. I replied to it at once but the reply was returned to me with the statement that you had left for Chicago. It was this I think, 'Thanks and congratulations, and my best wishes to the surviving members of one of the most splendid regiments of the war.'

"Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

"W. F. SMITH."

In compliance with a resolution which was adopted by the association, the following letter was sent to Captain J. D. Campbell, by the secretary.

"JUNE 9, 1902.

"CAPTAIN J. D. CAMPBELL,

"Philadelphia, Pa.

"My Dear Sir and Comrade:

"Our President, Captain I. M. Bean, has presented to our association, while assembled in annual reunion at Milwaukee, on May 27th, your warm and kindly greeting to us, your old comrades, individually and collectively, as expressed in yours of April 24th.

"I have been instructed by our association to extend to you, in behalf of its members, their heartfelt greetings. While you were not personally known to some of our comrades, the knowledge that you were a loyal member of the 49th Pennsylvania Volunteers, and that you were so kind as to remember us through all the years since we were with you on many firing lines, in many a hard fought battle, our hearts warm up, and we feel throbbing memories of those old days of valor and sacrifice, and your kindly expression of your regard for us as members of the 5th Wisconsin, has been, and shall be a source of comfort and pleasure to us for many days.

"Assuring you that you have the kindest greetings and best wishes for your welfare and happiness from every surviving member of the 5th Wisconsin Infantry Volunteers, I subscribe myself,

"Sincerely your Comrade and Friend,

"GEO. B. ENGLE, JR., Secretary."

On August 19th the secretary advised Major General William F. Smith, General Charles S. McEntee, Colonel Charles A. Clark, and Captain J. D. Campbell, of their election as honorary members of our association, and mailed each of them a badge. The following letters have been received in reply:

"43 MT. PLEASANT AVENUE,

"EAST ORANGE, N. J., August 22, 1902.

"My Dear Comrade Engle:

"Your letter of the 19th inst. advising my election as honorary member came two days since and delighted me. This afternoon the badge came and quite upset me.





"You don't know how pleasant it is to be remembered in such a pleasant way after so many years since we were together in the stormy days when your regiment made its splended reputation. The badge is very beautiful, and for the feeling which prompted the gift, and the resolution which allows me to wear it I am very grateful. Will you express to the members of your association my deep thanks for the honor done me and the pride with which I shall wear the badge.

"Yours sincerely,  
"WM. F. SMITH."

"566 EAST DIVISION STREET,  
"CHICAGO, ILL., August 22, 1902.

"MR. GEO. B. ENGLE, JR.,  
"Chicago, Ill.

"My Dear Comrade:

"Yours of the 19th inst. and the beautiful badge, by registered mail, both received. I esteem it a great honor to have been elected an honorary member of the Association of the Fifth Wisconsin Volunteers. I hope at their next meeting to be in a condition of health that will allow me to attend and wear the beautiful badge which I shall do with much pleasure and pride.

"Kindly extend to the association my most heartfelt thanks for their kind remembrance of me, and believe me always yours faithfully and fraternally,

"CHAS. S. McENTEE."

"CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA, August 30, 1902.

"GEO. B. ENGLE, JR.,  
-"Secretary, Association Fifth Wisconsin.

"Dear Comrade:

"I beg to acknowledge receipt of yours of recent date, informing me of my election as honorary member of the Fifth Wisconsin Association, and also the receipt of your beautiful association badge.

"The membership is an honor and a pleasure, and I shall wear the badge with the greatest of pride on all old soldier's days. I shall wear it at the reunion of the 6th Maine which is to be held October 1st, and which I mean to attend. I can already hear the boys of the 'old 6th' cheer for the 5th Wisconsin, when I show it to them, and I am certain they will adopt the same badge, and will always think of their brave and gallant comrades of the 5th when they wear it.

"How hard it was for us to give up the green cross after Maryes Heights. When we were ordered to put on the red cross after being assigned to Russell's brigade. I kept the green on the front of my hat and pinned the red on the back of the crown. I went to General Russell's headquarters decorated in this manner. The general saw the joke and roared over it heartily. The subsequent combination of the two crosses was a happy solution of the matter. It almost seems to me that the red and the green thus united tell of all that was most glorious of the 6th Corps, and of the Army of the Potomac, as they tell of the two most glorious regiments that ever marched and fought shoulder to shoulder with heart responsive to heart. If only all of the survivors of these heroic organizations might meet together what a gathering of heroes it would be, and what a hallelujah chorus we would put up. God bless all those who are left where ever they may be scattered through the land.

Faithfully, your comrade,

"CHAS. A. CLARK."

"PHILADELPHIA, August 21, 1902.

"MR. GEORGE B. ENGLE, JR.,  
"Secretary, Survivors Association,  
"5th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry,  
"142 Washington Street, Chicago, Ill.:

"Dear Sir:

"I am in receipt of your esteemed favor of the 19th instant, notifying me of my election as an honorary member of your association, and also (under registered cover) of a badge of your association.

"I accept the honor conferred with great pride and pleasure. I do not know of anything that I could possibly prize more highly than to be recognized as a comrade by the Survivors Association of the gallant and famous old 5th Wisconsin.

"I subscribe myself, very sincerely,

"Your comrade and friend,

"J. D. CAMPBELL."



Our association is under lasting obligation to General A. W. Greely, and Mr. J. W. Cheney, in charge of the War Department Library, for the photographs furnished us for this report. Also to Mr. W. H. Holmes, Head Curator, Department of Anthropology, United States National Museum, for the two photographs giving two views of the live White Oak tree, shot off at the "Bloody Angle" with musket balls, May 12th, 1864.

These photographs are the first taken of this tree, and will appear in print for the first time in this report.

Comrades, you now have the report of the proceedings of our last meeting, held May 27 and 28, 1902. It was a reunion long to be remembered by those who were so fortunate as to be present. There were about fifty-five comrades in attendance, and much regret was expressed that more in numbers were not there.

It is expected that we shall have another meeting in the spring of 1903, and it is the hope of your committee, and the officers that all who can possibly do so will attend that meeting.

Notices of the next meeting will be sent to all comrades whose addresses we have.

GEO. B. ENGLE, JR., Secretary.

142 Washington Street,  
Chicago, Ill.





## OUR HONORED DEAD.

(Since last Report.)

---

"On fame's eternal camping ground,  
Their silent tents are spread,  
And glory guards that solemn round,  
The bivouac of the dead."

---

CAPTAIN THOMAS FLINT, Co. "I", April 16, 1902, Albany, Wis.

LIEUTENANT LEMUEL ROSSITER, Co. "B", February 13, 1902, Los Angeles, Cal.

SERGEANT THOMAS E. CHABBUCK, Co. "E", August 9, 1900, Seymour, Wis.

SERGEANT JAMES H. LEONARD, Co. "A", July 18, 1902, Green Bay, Wis.

CHARLES M. CONKLIN, Co. "D", August 8, 1902, Adrian, Mich.

CHARLES DARLING, Co. "F", October 29, 1894, Nora Springs, Iowa.

EDWARD HEITMANN, Co. "C", Milwaukee, Wis.

GEORGE HOUSTON COOPER, Co. "B", October 12, 1902, Washington, D. C.

JOHN NELSON, Co. "H", December 14, 1901, Packwaukee, Wis.

ARNOLD WAGENER, Co. "A", July 18, 1902, Sturgeon Bay, Wis.

EDWARD WESSING, Co. "H", December 9, 1901, Packwaukee, Wis.



# THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TO

## ...ROSTER OF 1901...

### COMPANY "A".

William H. Davidson .....	Harrisburg, Ore. Box 84.
Julius D. Jackson .....	192 Sol St., Portland Ore.
Charles Nieman .....	779 Grant St., Buffalo, N. Y.
John Valentine .....	Soldiers' Home, Roseburg, Ore.
Thomas Wagener .....	Soldiers' Home, Waupaca, Wis.

### COMPANY "B".

Charles Campbell .....	Hammond, Minn.
John Kyle .....	Downsville, Wis.
John E. Rastall .....	1089 Victor St., Chicago, Ill.
James Young .....	Warsaw, Wis.

### COMPANY "D".

Lieutenant Henry H. Linnell .....	San Francisco, Cal.
Lieutenant Andrew Turnbull .....	Soldiers' Home, Waupaca, Wis.
Francis Aldridge .....	Soldiers' Home, Waupaca, Wis.
William Ashton .....	Bever Dam, Wis.
John Perry Campbell .....	Rhienlander, Wis.
Conrad Goeller .....	National Home, Milwaukee, Wis.
John Gustavson .....	Soldiers' Home, Waupaca, Wis.
James K. Hibbard .....	Waupaca, Wis.
Frank Lavigne .....	Grand Rapids, Wis.
John H. Morrison .....	Rhienlander, Wis.
William B. Naylor .....	Tomah, Wis.
Brainard T. Worthington .....	Grand Rapids, Wis.

### COMPANY "E".

Corporal James W. Hursh .....	Oshkosh, Wis.
Thomas Lett .....	242 W. Algoma St., Oshkosh, Wis.
James McDaniel .....	National Home, Milwaukee, Wis.
Thomas G. Richardson .....	Fredericksburg, Iowa.
William W. Wiggins .....	Insane Asylum, Janesville, Wis.

### COMPANY "F".

James Frost .....	Millston, Wis.
George A. Smith .....	Long Pine, Neb.
Henry Theade .....	Two Rivers, Wis.
Henry Weld .....	Soldiers' Home, Waupaca, Wis.
Albert J. West .....	Tabor, Iowa.





### COMPANY "G".

Captain Henry L. Walker ..... Geyserville, Cal.  
 Alexander C. Carboneaux..... Soldiers' Home, Waupaca, Wis.  
 Alexander Hamilton..... Portland, Ore., care Dr. E. Raymond.  
 Chas. W. Welch..... Soldiers' Home, Waupaca, Wis.

### COMPANY "H".

Martin L. Bobb..... Mitchell, S. D.  
 Cyrus B. Church..... Soldiers' Home, Waupaca, Wis.  
 Albert M. Wright..... Chadron, Neb.

### COMPANY "I".

David S. Allen..... Mareinette, Wis.  
 Charles F. Barnes..... Ainsworth, Neb.  
 Charles Campbell..... Hammond, Wis.  
 Samuel L. Dyer..... Pueblo, Col.  
 William R. Sargent..... 44 Ocean View Ave., Santa Cruz, Cal.

### COMPANY, "K".

Myron H. Bayrd..... Eau Claire, Wis.  
 Martin Boise..... Mitchell, S. D.  
 Charles A. Rossing..... Bode, Iowa.  
 Nelson Walker..... Soldiers' Home, Waupaca, Wis.  
 Samuel Welch..... Baraboo, Wis.

## CHANGES IN ADDRESSES IN 1901 ROSTER.

Surgeon Ambrose Jones..... Delton, Wis.  
 Major Charles F. Powell..... New London, Conn.  
 Ludwig Urban..... New Munster, Wis.  
 John Conrad..... 5600 Centre Ave., Chicago, Ill.  
 August Lins..... U.S. Custom House, Milwaukee, Wis.  
 Herbert Young..... Soldiers Home, Waupaca, Wis.  
 Fred H. Smith..... 937 23d St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

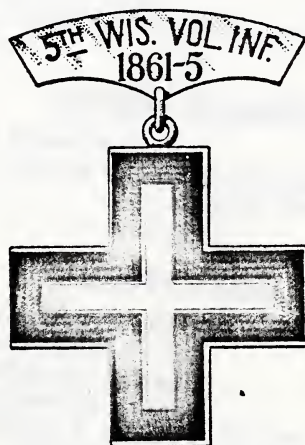
Comrades are requested to look over the names of the roster, and if the addresses of any comrade are known that do not appear in it, please send the names to the secretary, giving addresses and company to which such members belonged.

GEO. B. ENGLE, JR.,  
 Secretary.

The Half-Tones of "Maryes House," "Sunken Road" and "View of Fredericksburg" are placed in this issue as there was an error made in the paper used for them in our report of 1901 meeting.



# Report of the Proceedings of 5th Wisconsin Vol. Infantry



Seventeenth Annual Reunion, held at Milwaukee,  
Wisconsin, Tuesday, June twenty-third, nineteen  
hundred and three • • • • •





# OFFICERS

## ELECTED FOR THE CURRENT YEAR

### Officers

CAPTAIN IRVING M. BEAN, President, Milwaukee, Wis.  
DAVID W. HOWIE, Vice-President, Milwaukee, Wis.  
GEO. B. ENGLE, JR., Secretary and Treasurer, 142 Washington Street, Chicago.  
COLONEL JAMES M. BULL, Chaplain, Pipestone, Minn.

### Executive Committee

IRVING M. BEAN, Milwaukee  
DAVID W. HOWIE, Milwaukee  
GEO. B. ENGLE, JR., Chicago

### Vice-Presidents

JAMES S. ANDERSON, Co. "A"  
OSCAR H. PIERCE, Co. "B"  
J. C. IVERSON, Co. "C"  
BEN SMITH, Co. "D"  
CHAS. R. NEVITT, Co. "E"  
MILES L. BUTTERFIELD, Co. "F"  
WM. H. KEES, Co. "G"  
ABRAM DENNY, Co. "H"  
JACOB COOK, Co. "I"  
HENRY ROHRER, Co. "K"

### Honorary Members

MAJOR-GENERAL WM. F. SMITH, Philadelphia (deceased)  
GENERAL CHARLES S. McENTEE, Chicago  
COLONEL CHARLES A. CLARK, Cedar Rapids, Ia.  
CAPTAIN JAMES D. CAMPBELL, Philadelphia

387

Y8838W3M

Y8A88L





GENERAL AMASA COBB, 1903.



JUDGE J. S. ANDERSON, 1903.





Gift of Association, Chicago  
4.18.1904.

## PROCEEDINGS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING ❧ ❧

OF THE

### Association of Fifth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry

HELD AT

MILWAUKEE, WIS., TUESDAY, JUNE 23rd, 1903.

Rooms of Military Order of the Loyal Legion

Pursuant to a call issued by the Executive Committee, the Association met at this time in annual reunion in the rooms of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, Academy of Music Building, 381 Milwaukee Street, Milwaukee, Wis.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Captain Irving M. Bean, at 10:30 A. M., and he addressed the comrades present as follows:

Comrades—The Secretary admonishes me that it is time that the meeting should be called to order, and that we should open the campaign which we trust and hope will be a successful one.

Our Secretary, an invaluable one, as you all know, attentive to all of his duties, has incorporated, without any authority that I know of, in the order of business, "Opening Address by the President." Neither the constitution nor by-laws provide for any such ceremony, and the President has no opening address to deliver. It gives him great pleasure, however, to greet you as comrades, friends and companions of the old regiment distinguished during the war for its valor, for its excellence in all respects, and a regiment that has maintained even to this distant day, its former distinction. It is a great pleasure to me to see so many of the old soldiers of that glorious regiment here present, although the numbers in comparison with the numbers that constituted the old regiment, are so sadly few.

I do not know that there can be any sentiment more commendable than the one which induces men upon whom now the weight of years has come, to gather together in friendly companionship for the purpose of renewing and maintaining the friendships that were established so long, long ago, and under such circumstances. We were all young men, and impressions made by events in our early life are more stable and lasting than impressions of later times, and so it is that one old soldier meeting another after a lapse of more than forty years, frequently remembers, without difficulty, the name and features of the comrade who marched and fought by his side that distant time ago.

I suppose in the natural course of events it is inevitable, that our numbers will grow fewer. The first meetings of this Association were more largely attended, and we need not go very far, my friends to find the cause of a smaller attendance now, and sometimes, giving rein to my fancy, I can see, in the not very distant future, a time when the numbers will be still less, and carrying the thought out to its logical sequence I can imagine that the call may be issued by the President or Secretary and the meeting may be attended by perhaps two old fellows. It would not be a large or very enthusiastic gathering. One of the three may preside and call the meeting to order, and without tumult or over-excitement the proceedings may be had in regular order. Such a meeting as that would indeed be of intense interest, it seems to me to the last survivors of this famous old regiment. Assuming, as I think we may have a right to do, that notwithstanding their bodily ailments and



inadequacies, their memories will be good, they will talk together of the far distant time when they were soldiers together, and of the distant time when this Association was organized, and lament, not only the deaths of those who fell on the field of battle, but those who have gone in the way of nature since.

In matters of present public concern, while on my feet, let me remind you that although it was not the primary object of the government, in 1861, to extirpate the institution of slavery, but simply to restore the authority of the government in localities where it had been disregarded and overturned, still I think we all knew from the first that the root of the evil, the cause of the great turbulence, was that institution.

In the natural course of events, slavery, under a military proclamation issued by the President of United States, was abolished. At the close of the war, amendments to the constitution of the United States were made forever prohibiting human slavery in this Republic. It is somewhat discouraging, possibly, to some of us, to read, that notwithstanding that fact, that after a horrible conflict, lasting for four years and more, this most abominable institution was rooted out, and that the necessary constitutional amendments were adopted, I say perhaps it is a little discouraging to discover in this late day, that human slavery exists in the State of Alabama, and perhaps in other localities; and if there is any lesson to be drawn from it, it is this, that the virus, the poison, of that institution has percolated down through more than a generation and flows through veins of too many men living in the southern states today. Of course no serious inference should be drawn from this fact, as we hope and believe that it is local and temporary and that it will be rooted out.

I do not know why, but to my mind this idea occurs, that taking into consideration the fact that human slavery in a form as bad if not worse than that which existed prior to the war of the Rebellion, and the disorderly condition of affairs so far as obedience to the law is concerned that exists in some parts of our country, that it would be just as well for Americans to confine their energies in humanitarian or philanthropic lines, to the evils that exist among themselves, rather than waste them in an endeavor to cure the evils that may exist in distant quarters of the globe. Of course it goes without saying, that we should deprecate wrong, injustice and cruelty where ever they may be found; but in as much as so many wrongs and cruelties exist right among us, instead of besieging the governments of distant lands to suppress disorders there, and intermeddling with their affairs, it seems to me that it would be better for us to concentrate our energies upon the difficulties we have here at home. It has seemed to me (if you will pardon the homely illustration) that in domestic life it is always in bad taste for the head of the household to enter complaint about the conditions of affairs in his neighbor's house, when they were very bad in his own. In far distant China, owing to an effort made by people who certainly, I doubt not, had the best of motives, to compel or persuade the inhabitants in distant Asia to adopt our religious creed, you know what followed butcheries and cruelties and all manner of things that are most deplorable. In distant Russia cruelties and wrongs are being perpetrated, and here very recently a horrible deed has been committed in Serbia. Now all these things are deplorable, but I cannot help believing that it is in most execrable taste for this government, or for us in any associated way, to attempt to interfere in such matters. I think it would be far, far better for us, as I have said before, to concentrate our energies upon the difficulties, the wrongs, the injustice that exist here in our own midst and let the business and troubles of other nations be regulated by themselves.

This is all I have to say, comrades and friends, I greatly regret that neither of the former commanders of this regiment are present. Colonel Cobb lives in California, and I am advised that while he is in fair condition as to his health he does not feel quite able to undertake the long journey that would be necessary to bring him here. Colonel Allen, living here in Oshkosh, hard by, I very deeply regret to say, is not at all well.

(The opening remarks of the President were received with great applause)

The Secretary then read his report, prefacing it with the following statement:

Mr. President and Comrades—The last published report I think is all sufficient as to the detail of our last meeting. I have a list to present of those that have gone to the silent land since our last meeting.

Ransom T. Squires died December 17. He was of Company "G".

Edward K. Holton, Company "G", St. Louis. I have not the date of his death but it was sometime during the early part of the year. He was a manufacturer of shovels down there.





Samuel L. Dwyer, July 12.

W. M. Wiggins, April 17, 1903. He was from Janesville, Wisconsin, and belonged to Company "E".

March 16, Willard Lausing, Company "E", Neenah, Wisconsin, as I am advised by his daughter, Cora I. Lansing. He was at our last meeting. He has always been helpful to the Association in every way.

I have also the name of S. S. Stanton, handed to me this morning by Comrade Winn. He died two or three years ago but his death was not reported to the Secretary.

Our list of dead is rather lighter than usual, probably owing to the Secretary not being advised, and if there are any comrades present that know of others that have passed away, whose names have not been put in our roster of the dead, they will oblige the Secretary and the Association by reporting to the Secretary.

The following names were also handed in:

Comrade Culver of Waukesha, died the 2d of September last, Company "F".

Comrade Wiggins of Company "E", died in 1902.

James E. Reilly, Company "K", died about three years ago.

Roderick Elwell of Eau Claire, Company "K", Orderly Sergeant.

Allen Packard, Stevens Point, Company "K".

Secretary—I have been busy and quite unwell for the last two or three weeks, and have not been able to draw off a statement of the receipts and expenditures for the last year, and I will give them to you in detail as I have them entered in my book, which shows each item received and paid and a balance on hand at this time of \$2.75.

(Read from book)

Motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, adopting the report of the Secretary.

Chairman Bean—The Secretary will read the correspondence received.

Secretary Engle—I have quite a number of very interesting letters this year. The first that I will read is from a member of the 49th Pennsylvania, from a comrade to whom I sent a copy of our reports, it is addressed to the Secretary and is as follows:

"1404 NORTH BOUVIER STREET,  
"PHILADELPHIA, February 9, 1903.

"MY DEAR COMRADE:

"I am in receipt of a copy from you, of the proceedings at the reunion of the 5th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry held in Milwaukee on May 27 and 28, 1902.

"I very much appreciate your courtesy as I have always held in high esteem, all of my comrades of the old Hancock brigade. The world has never witnessed better organizations of soldiers than those who composed the 5th Wisconsin, 6th Maine and 49th Pennsylvania and in my advancing years, it is my glory that when a young man I was permitted to serve for three years and eleven months in the 49th, and associated with such brave and gallant men as were in the other regiments of the old brigade.

"I have read the proceedings with very much pleasure and interest, and it heats my blood to read again, and think of the gallant deeds of my comrades, when my beloved Country's fate was in the balance, and when you of the 5th and we of the 49th gave to her cause the full measure of our devotion.

"Thanking you again for your thought of me, and wishing for you, and your gallant organization, many more years of the peace for which we fought, and which through many trials and much bloodshed we won, I remain,

"Very truly your Comrade,

"JAMES B. DOWNING,

"Late Captain, 49th Pennsylvania Volunteers, Company, 'F'."

The next letter is from General Horatio C. King, Secretary of the Society of the Army of the Potomac, and one of the General Officers of the Old Army:

"HORATIO C. KING,

"COUNSELOR AT LAW,

"375 Fulton Street.

"BROOKLYN BOROUGH, N. Y. City, January 23, 1903.

"GEO. B. ENGLE, ESQ., 142 Washington Street, Chicago, Ill.

"Dear Sir—I thank you very much for the copy of the report of the proceedings of your regiment every line of which I have read while I was taking a little



trip to Staten Island. It is one of the most interesting reports I have ever seen, and I shall preserve it. I take pleasure in mailing you today a copy of our annual report, together with the report of our proceedings at Culpeper Court House, which I am sure you will enjoy.

"Fraternally yours,  
"HORATIO C. KING."

I have a letter from William H. Holmes, Presiding Elder, Rock River conference.

"57 Washington Street, CHICAGO, January 20, 1903

"GEO. B. ENGLE, Jr., Secretary:

DEAR COMRADE—I am to day in receipt of 'Report of the Proceedings of 5th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry', for which accept my most hearty thanks. I shall appreciate it as giving some vivid recollections of one of the regiments which helped to make the 6th Corps famous; a regiment in which not only General Sedgwick 'trusted', but which the other regiments trusted. I remember very well that day when on our (Vermont brigade) charged on Maryes Heights. We carried the left point of the hill, and captured Parker's Virginia battery with four guns. (That is, the 6th Vermont did, the rest of the brigade went to Lee's Heights.) I shall never forget in that charge the moment when I saw the flag of the 6th Maine waving on the heights; a moment more and our flag was securely planted. The glorious 5th Wisconsin did magnificent work between the two points, not only on the skirmish line but also, in the line of battle charge.

"I am also glad for the illustrations, bringing back as they do scenes that were painted on memories page amid one of the most thrilling events of the war.

"Thanking you again, I remain,

"Your friend and comrade,

"WM. H. HOLMES,

"Company 'E', 6th Vermont Volunteers.

The next is from General John Stahel, who was a member of the 12th Army Corps, a brigadier-general, I believe, at the time of the war.

"LAKEWOOD, N. J., January 10, 1903.

"GEO. B. ENGLE, JR., ESQ.:

"Secretary of the 5th Wisconsin Volunteer

"Infantry Association, Chicago, Ill.:

"My Dear Comrade—Just as I set down to write to you, as Secretary of the Western Society Army of the Potomac, did I receive, the 14th, 15th, and 16th reports of the proceedings of the 5th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and I hasten to thank you most sincerely, for your courteous attention, and which, believe me, I greatly appreciate.

"I am here at this winter resort as the climate of New York is too severe for me, and even here it is too cold for me some days, so that I may have to go south, as soon as I may be able, to stand a longer railroad travel, for I am still suffering from rheumatism, and occasional attacks of sciatica.

"With renewed thanks for your kind thoughtfulness, I am,

"Very sincerely yours,

"J. STAHEL."

I have a letter from Colonel Andrew J. Smith, who was a captain during his service with Smith's (our old commander) division, and on his staff. I think that Captain Beau will remember him. He was a brave officer and a grand good fellow. Since he wrote this letter he has passed away. He fell dead, I am told, in a western city while on a trip west very recently.

"THE NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS.

"346 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, June 25, 1903.

"MY DEAR ENGLE:

"The reports were received, and as you requested I handed one copy to General McMahan, who, as well as myself, was very much pleased with it. We looked it over carefully, as it treated of occurrences with which we were a part, he directed me to thank you cordially for remembering him, in which I desire to be a part.

"Sincerely yours,

"ANDREW J. SMITH."





Colonel O. V. Tracy, late colonel 122d New York Volunteer Infantry, writes:

"SYRACUSE, N. Y., January 31, 1903.

"Dear Comrade—Many thanks for your reunion pamphlet which I have read with great pleasure and interest. Your regiment do matters up to the 'queen's taste.' I am sending you under another cover an account of my escape from Dixie which you may be interested in.

"Yours truly,

"O. V. TRACY."

I come now to several communications from members of the dear old 6th Maine. Two of them are from General Goodale:

"OFFICE OF POST COMMANDER, VANCOUVER BARRACKS, WASH.,

"February 9, 1903.

"MY DEAR SIR:

"I thank you very much for report of 5th Wisconsin Society received today. I started to write Maine so closely are the two regiments associated in my mind. I cherish the memory of those days, forty years ago, when we were so closely associated in dangers of battle, the hardship of campaigns, and sometimes the joy of success; but at all times the satisfaction of knowing we were battling for the right.

"Our good friend Colonel Clark, of Cedar Rapids, sailed Saturday, for two months, to the Mediterranean.

"With best wishes your friend,"

"G. A. GOODALE, Colonel 17th Infantry,

"(Formerly Sergeant, Company 'E', 6th Maine)".

"P. S.—When a boy, I learned that anything enclosed in brackets, might be left out. I would not for the world forfeit my right to assert my connection with that regiment, and brigade association with the glorious old 5th Wisconsin. As I retire for age on July 4, next, and after that will be foot loose, I cherish the hope that some day I may have the pleasure of meeting you all in annual reunion.

"G. A. G."

"41 JORDAN AVENUE, WAKEFIELD, MASS., June 12, 1903.

"MY DEAR COMRADE:

"I thank you heartily for your letter of June 9. containing an invitation to the reunion of the 5th Wisconsin Volunteers, June 23 and 24, inst.

"Nothing could give me more pleasure in being with you at that time, than meeting with my own old regiment, the 6th Maine. But I must deny myself that pleasure *this* year hoping I may have a 'standing invitation,' and that some date in the future, avail myself of the same.

"The history of the two regiments is so nearly the same, it seems a pity that the great distance, of Maine from Wisconsin, seems to preclude, an occasional joint reunion. In this connection I venture to suggest that an attempt be made in the future, for a reunion of 'Hancock's brigade.' Our regiments with the 43d New York and 49th Pennsylvania on some middle grounds, say New York or Pennsylvania. Hancock is gone, why did we not attempt it, during his life? Mitchell is gone to the distant camping ground, but I believe McEntee is alive, and possibly little Parker—who was always a little barometer of an approaching fight, as he rode about with a smile on his young face.

"As time advances my love for my old comrades increases.

"I beg of you to convey to the Association my loving greetings, and very best wishes. The dangers and hardships of the three 'burghs': Williamsburg, Fredericksburg and Gettysburg, not to mention intervening skirmishes tend to draw us few survivors closer and closer together.

"Sincerely and fraternally yours,

"G. A. GOODALE, Brigadier General, U. S. A.,

"Formerly Private, Corporal and Sergeant, Company 'E', 6th Maine."

Colonel Clark writes as follows:

"CEDAR RAPIDS, IA., January 31, 1903.

"GEORGE B. ENGLE, ESQ., 142 Washington Street, Chicago:

"My Dear Engle—I have yours of yesterday, and I am glad to hear from you again.

"I duly received copy of your last meeting of the 5th Wisconsin, and have read it with great enjoyment.



"Colonel G. A. Goodale, Commanding Vancouver Barracks, Vancouver, Wash., is the address which you desire. He is Colonel of the 17th Infantry, but is in command of the Post.

"Our boys of the 6th Maine are greatly pleased with their badges. They adopted it as the official badge of the Association. Many of them said to me, with tears in their eyes, 'My badge goes with me into the coffin when I am laid away.'

"I have been busy continuously since I returned from Maine last October, and when in Chicago have had no time to go in and take a look at you. I am arranging now to go abroad for a couple of months, sailing from New York on steamer 'Kaiserin Maria Theresia,' on February 7, I shall be glad to see you on my way East, if I can get time, but that is doubtful.

"With all good wishes, very truly, your comrade,  
"CHAS. A. CLARK."

I find several more letters from the Maine boys.

"ELLSWORTH, ME., June 13, 1903.

"DEAR COMRADE:

"I am indebted to you for a copy of the report of the 16th meeting of the 5th Wisconsin, and I thank you very much for the same. Anything coming from the dear old 5th Wisconsin warms my heart. I love the name of the 5th Wisconsin and every man in it. I sometimes think but for the line that proceeded us at Maryes Heights I would not be here now, perchance one of them took a bullet that was intended for me. I was in the charge on that hill and have a saber cut across my left wrist given me by a Confederate captain. I served three years and three months in the 6th Maine, Company 'E', and never had a furlough or pass for an hour. I am now sixty-three years old and in too good health to draw a pension. I have an old farm on the shore of Frenchman Bay and spend my summers here. Every one in Hancock County, Me., knows me, and if you or any comrade of the 5th Wisconsin come down here I will do all that I can to make you happy. I shall be at Bar Harbor this summer, and have an office there.

"With best wishes to all, I am yours,  
"A. T. SAUNDERS."

"EAST MACHIAS, ME., February 19, 1903.

"DEAR COMRADE:

"I am in receipt of the report of the proceedings of the 5th Wisconsin 16th annual reunion, and I am so thankful for the same. Please remember to send me one every year so long as I live. God bless the old 5th Wisconsin boys. I know of their glorious deeds. I was with the 6th Maine in every skirmish and battle they participated in until the 7th of November, 1863, at Rappahannock Station I was knocked out.

"Speaking of the battle of Williamsburg, Comrade Anderson says, 'there was an advance of some part of the line, I do not know whether it was the 5th Wisconsin that advanced towards the enemy'. Good Comrade Anderson, let us have things right. All that advanced was the left wing of the 6th Maine, which was in the ravine at the left of the fort, after every Confederate in front was killed or wounded. General Hancock said, 'Gentlemen, move forward, that was magnificent'. He seemed very pleased and presume that he just wanted us up out of the ravine, and all we did was to move up out of the ravine. But do not let a man think we did not do any killing that day, for their line of battle met our volley fair in the teeth at close quarters. They seemed to be running with all their might to get in the rear of the 5th Wisconsin, who was so cool and taking their time to get back to the line. Again I thank you. Yours, in F., C. and L.,

"C. J. FRYE,  
"Company 'G', 6th Maine."

"BREWER, ME., February 6, 1903.

"MY DEAR COMRADE:

"Many thanks for the report of the 16th reunion of the gallant old 5th Wisconsin. It seems like a letter from a friend. I never expect to meet any of the old comrades of the 5th, but there will always be a spot sacred in my heart for them while life shall last.

"With best wishes to all the comrades, I remain, truly yours,

"CHAS. R. GOODWIN,  
"Late Company 'B', 6th Maine."





"237 SPRING HILL AVENUE,

"MOBILE, ALA., February 7, 1903.

"DEAR COMRADE:

"Many thanks for the report of the 16th reunion of the 5th Wisconsin. Reading it was next to being present in person. I am heartily glad your Association is doing so much to perpetuate the history of your regiment, which history will forever stand without a blot or blemish.

"Perhaps I might be able to render some little assistance to any one getting up papers to be read at future reunions. I have had in possession since 1865 the letter book of Hancock's brigade. I also have my own dairies of all those years. What tells of the 6th Maine tells of the 5th Wisconsin.

"I am now making my home here. 'Bronze buttons' are scarce, therefore, I have several so as to be sure of always wearing one.

"With kind regards and best wishes for all the 5th Wisconsin comrades, I remain, very truly yours,

"GEO. F. PEAKS,

"6th Maine Volunteers."

"DEXTER, ME., March 2, 1903.

"MY DEAR COMRADE:

"I received the report of the proceedings of the 16th reunion of the 5th Wisconsin a few days ago. To say that I was delighted does not do the subject justice. I have read it and reread it a number of times and expect to keep at it until I get another. The items of the battle of the Wilderness and Williamsburg are the 'real thing'. It is like fighting them over again, as what happened to the 5th Wisconsin happened to the 6th Maine also, I wish that I could come to one of your reunions, or that the 5th could come to ours. I was well acquainted with Captain Hilton of Company 'G' of the 5th, as he was born in the same town that I was here in Maine. I know that a great many of you will remember me as I was the fellow that captured the Confederate flag at Rappahanock Station, November 7, 1863, for which I received a medal of honor from Congress, and I still wear the same. Hoping that the old 5th Wisconsin will hold many more reunions, I will only add God bless you all.

"O. O. ROBERTS,

"Late Sergeant, Company 'H', 6th Maine Volunteers."

"AINSWORTH, NEB., May 19, 1903.

"DEAR COMRADE:

"The report of the last meeting of the 5th Wisconsin was duly received. You have my name wrong as printed. I always sign my name C. F. Barnes. If you desire the full name print it Clark and not Charles, as my older brothers name is Charles, and he served in the 5th Wisconsin Battery.

"Now a few words as regards the recruits of '64, of which I was one, and a very young, small and green one too. I don't think there was one of us boys but fully realized what kind of a regiment we were joining. A regiment with a most glorious record second to none. We were proud of it. We considered it a great privilege to belong to it. I haven't yet got over the liking of the figure '5' above all others. When we first joined the regiment at Winchester and for a few weeks thereafter we were ready to swear by anything that the old boys would tell us but we soon found that they were as good at stringing the recruits as they were on the skirmish line fighting Johnnies. It was a great surprise to us when the long roll beat to see how quick and how quiet the old companies would be marching to the color line. We would not be half ready when they would go by. We got down to business and soon could fall in as quick as they. Yes they made soldiers of us in less than one half the time it would have taken if we had been by ourselves. If we helped in a measure to keep up the good name of the old 5th we will give credit to the old boys that had placed that name high on honors roll and which no Badger boy could afford to dishonor. I have often thought of how much we owed to the soldierly qualities of the old companies 'A', 'B', and 'C'. I tell my boys that if ever they enlist to choose an old regiment with experienced officers and it will be better for them in many ways.

"Give my regards to the old boys at your next meeting. I would like to be with you but I can not.

"Yours in F. C. & L.,

"CLARK F. BARNES."



"LOS ANGELES, CAL., June 7, 1903.

"DEAR FRIEND AND COMRADE:

"Your circular letter giving date of meeting of our old regiment is received. I am sorry—very sorry, to say that I can not be with you to enjoy the many good things that this meeting has in store for those who can attend and answer the roll call June 23 at Milwaukee. My business still keeps me down to the grind stone of hard work, out as good health is with me I am thankful to be able to do the work.

"General Cobb and I see each other quite often. On Decoration day we took in all the ceremonies from cemetery to church, and the General stood it very well. With very kind regards for yourself, and my best wishes for long life and happiness to come to you and all our comrades—I had almost forgotten to mention the fact that General Cobb and I went to the Soldiers' Home a few weeks ago to see if our comrade John Valentine, could be admitted. We were not successful. I wrote to him of that effect, but have not yet heard from him. We also found the record of three of our regiment, two as members of the home, but away on furlough. Charles G. Tracy of Co. 'G' and Sylvanius Brinhall of Co. 'F' who resides at 246 East 30th Street, Los Angeles. Lieutenant H. S. Kribbs, died some time ago. He belonged to Company 'K'.

"Yours sincerely,

"JULIUS ENERT."

"LANCASTER, WIS. June 12, 1903.

"DEAR COMRADE:

"Your circular received. The chances are that I shall not be able to attend any of the reunions of 1903. It is to be regretted very much. The fact that the friends of my early life are so few, makes it almost a cross not to be with those of 1861. Kindly remember me to all that may be there. I will try to bear in remembrance each so that an introduction will not be necessary when we meet in the great beyond.

"Your comrade

"JOHN G. CLARK."

Secretary—I am in receipt of several letters from those who opposed us in the great struggle—"when the victors and the vanquished alike have bequeathed to us—to our country—as a heretage the memory of the valor and loyalty to the right as to each it was given to see the right, shared alike by the men who wore the blue and the gray in the great days of the civil war." I feel confident that the kindly words sent to us in greetings will be received in this presence in the same generous spirit that they have been sent.

I will read first, letters from Colonel James C. MacRae, of the 5th North Carolina Infantry, addressed to the secretary:

"CHAPEL HILL, N. C., January 13, 1903.

"MY DEAR SIR:

"Thank you very much for sending me the last report of proceedings of the 5th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry—May, 1902. It is very interesting and of course the kind words concerning your former enemies, the 5th North Carolina, are duly appreciated, I must beg to correct a mistake you have fallen into in confounding me with my brother Colonel D. K. MacRae, I was only the adjutant of the 5th North Carolina and was soon after promoted into the Adjutant General's Department and lost connection with this regiment.

"By the way, by reading Judge Anderson's interesting sketch 'Through the Wilderness,' I find that these two regiments must have been opposed to each other again at the 'Bloody Angle' where the losses of the 5th North Carolina were as heavy as they were at Williamsburg.

"Thanking you again, Yours truly,

"JAS. C. MACRAE."

"CHAPEL HILL, N. C. June 6, 1903.

"MY DEAR SIR:

"Thank you very much for the invitation to be present at the 17th annual meeting of your Association. It would afford me pleasure to meet you in this much happier contact than our former meeting, but my official duties keep me here.

"It is well for you to keep alive these fires of patriotism and renew your youth over the memories of your heroic accomplishments—just as it shall be always our duty to uphold the integrity of purpose of those of us from whom the laurels of victory were withheld.







D. W. HOWIE,  
As Commander, Woolcott Post, G. A. R., Milwaukee, 1903.



First Sergeant Company "A", 1903.  
JULIUS ENERT.



"Intended long since to have written and thanked you for the pamphlet containing the most interesting and graphic accounts given by you, and your comrades of the battle of Williamsburg, in which your gallant regiment bore so distinguished a part, and to have thanked you for the invitation made me at that time. I trust that at your annual meeting many more of your comrades in battle will gather than you have reason to hope to see together again and that it may be a long time yet before these reunions shall cease, because the veterans have found their last rest.

"Yours very truly,

"JAS. C. MACRAE,

"Adjutant, 5th North Carolina, at Williamsburg."

The letter following was addressed to Comrade Arthur Hilbrook, who has kindly offered it to the Association to be read. It has much that will be of interest to us:

"CHAPEL HILL, N. C., January 13, 1903.

"MY DEAR SIR:

"I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 8th inst. in regard to the distinguished part taken by your regiment, the 5th Wisconsin, and that to which I had the honor to belong, the 5th North Carolina, at Williamsburg, and to thank you for the kind and complimentary manner in which you speak of us. I also reciprocate the friendly feeling you express toward those whose fortune it was to oppose you and yours on the battle field. After the lapse of forty years it is nearly time that to the survivors of that intense struggle, pressing on now with accelerated pace to join their comrades who have so long preceded them these events may now be recalled without bitterness and indeed with a common pride in the valor of those whose fathers fought side by side, and whose sons in later days have emulated their example.

"Yours is a graphic, and from your point of view, probably as accurate a statement as may now be made of the part you took in the battle of Williamsburg. You do us much honor in naturally exaggerating the numbers of our two regiments the 24th Virginia and the 5th North Carolina—there were few others on our part of the field engaged with us that evening in the disastrous assault upon your line in which you so splendidly illustrated the courage of the men of the 'Western Reserve,' and in which we endeavored at great cost to 'show our faith by our works.'

"In making the retrospect does it strike you, as it does me, how young we were, who were engaged in this desperate struggle? May I say that the 2d Florida and the 2d Mississippi, had been detached from Early's brigade and sent some where to the right in the line of the Confederate army where the fight had been going on all day. The brigade as it was constituted about 5 P. M., when we went in, was composed of the 24th Virginia on the left, the 5th North Carolina on the right, with the 23d North Carolina and 38th Virginia in the centre. My impression is that the 24th Virginia approached much nearer to you under cover of woods than we did. Being on the extreme right and further from your batteries and redoubt, we had a longer march in the open, exposed first to your artillery, then to your infantry fire. General Early led the 24th Virginia, Colonel MacRae the 5th North Carolina, until the former was wounded.

"Our friend, Mr. Engle, does me personally too much honor by confounding me with my brother Colonel D. K. MacRae. I was simply the Adjutant.

"When we came out of the woods, we were immediately fired upon by the battery that you were supporting. It was necessary for us to change front forward on the left company. Having accomplished which movement we halted, the left company having waited for the other to catch up. We then did as we were ordered by General Hill—'Charge the battery which has opened on you, and do it quick.' That a determined resistance from the regiment deployed as skirmishers in front of us as we pushed on at trail arms, without firing a shot—passed over one fence which fell before us, obliged to the left some distance to connect with the 24th Virginia and began firing as we advanced, the centre regiments not having come out of the woods, passed some farm houses around which we had some fierce fighting. Your men continued to retire slowly to their supports at the redoubt. The battery was withdrawn into the redoubt and opened on us from there. We continued to advance in the face of a heavy fire of all arms, until within not as much as 100 yards of the redoubt we came to the corner of an old fence and ditch, at which point we halted, and Colonel MacRae sent me back to find General Hill, and ask for reinforcements.





I was mounted on a white horse and rode rapidly back, and to the right (as I was going) of the houses into the woods where a short distance away I found General Hill with two regiments. I stated to him that Colonel MacRae said for 'Gods sake send me reinforcements.' He said that I must order our men to fall back. I begged for one regiment, telling him that we had driven you behind your works and with another regiment we would go over you, (of course I did not know that you had three lines waiting for us in the redoubt, see Captain Beans remarks p. 7.) He rode down to the head of the regiment and returned in a moment saying "I can't do it, Sir, you will have to order a retreat". I turned and put my spurs to my horse and rode as rapidly as I could up the declivity out on the open field where on account of the heavy fire my horse became unmanagble got the bit in her teeth and started to run with me to the left of my regiment and up to your redoubt. I chose a soft spot, not hard to find, and jumped off and went on foot to deliver my orders and found my regiment retiring under a murderous fire from your redoubt. Your band playing and flags flying, and men cheering. We went but a short distance before we met General Rhode's brigade advancing, but night was coming on—we slept on the piles of blankets which our men had left when they went into the fight.

"In the morning we called the remnant together and I counted about 75 men. I was then on brigade duty for some time. There may have been no returns from the 5th North Carolina, but Colonel MacRae's report and suplimental report, and Major Sinclair's detailed report of casualties were published in the North Carolina papers at the time and I have them now.

"In writing the sketch of the 5th North Carolina in the book to which Mr. Engle refers I did not attempt to go into detail.

"A sketch of this part of the battle was published in the New York Herald in a few days, and I think it was there that we learned of the compliment General Hancock had paid us. In return for which compliment I had the pleasure of voting for him afterwards for President—as usual without avail. But where can one stop when he begins to write of forty years ago.

"I simply write to acknowledge your kind letter, not for publication, but if you can find any extracts which you might wish to read to your comrades, it may please you to do so.

"May God spare our generations our experience—may they have the blessings of peace as we have had the glories of war.

"Yours very truly,

"JAS. C. MACRAE,

"Once Adjutant, 5th North Carolina Regiment."

"FREDERICKSBURG, VA., February 16, 1903.

"MY DEAR SIR:

"I have received the report of the 5th Wisconsin Volunteers, which I appreciate very highly. Please accept my thanks. The letters written by your different comrades are very interesting to me that wore the gray. They are very impartial, and from eye witnesses. I know well the country fought over, and know they have *not* exaggerated the *Wilderness*—nor down the *whole line*.

"Hoping that you are well and doing well, I am, Yours truly,

"THOS. J. HAYDON."

"FREDERICKSBURG, VA., February 17, 1903.

"MY DEAR SIR:

"I thank you very much for sending me a 'report of the proceeding of the 5th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry'. I have read it with much interest and have filed it with other documents of importance for preservation.

"I would thank you for any other similar publication you may be able to send me.

"Very respectfully,

"S. J. QUINN."

Secretary Engle—I have here a photograph that I received from the War Department Library. It is catalogued as being a part of Maryes Heights. I have had considerable correspondence in relation to it with a view of locating the site it represents. When I first received the photograph I did not recognize it as any part of what is known as Maryes Heights, and so advised the Librarian of the War Department Library. I soon after begun a correspondence with some people in Virginia who I thought should know. Captain S. J. Quinn and Thos. J. Haydon,



both of Fredericksburg, and who helped to defend the Confederate works there, did not think that it was any part of them. After farther correspondence with Mr. A. D. Alexander, and Colonel Chas. Richardson, late Chief of Artillery of General Richd. H. Anderson's division. I am convinced that it is, or was, a part of that line, and known as "Willis Hill."

The correspondence is too long to publish in our report. I shall send it all to the War Department Library believing that it is worth being preserved there. The photograph will appear in our report.

Inadvertantly or carelessly I omitted from our last year's report a letter received from Williard H. Rickaby in reply to one that I sent to him asking him how long the 5th Regiment was engaged in front of the "Bloody Angle."

His report agrees exactly as to the size of the tree "shot off by musket balls during that days fight", with that of W. H. Holmes, *et al.*

"NILES, WIS., September 9, 1902.

"COMRADE GEO. B. ENGLE, JR., Chicago, Ills.

"Dear Sir—In reply to your inquiry of the 3d inst. as to how long the 5th Wisconsin Regiment fought in front of the 'Bloody Angle' on May 12, 1864, I would say: the regiment was called into line at about 5 o'clock on the morning of the 12th at about the time Hancock made his charge with the 2d Corps. The brigade stood under arms about one hour, and was then double-quickened about half a mile to near the 'Bloody Angle.' It was then formed for a charge. The brigade consisted of the 5th Wisconsin, 6th Maine, 49th Pennsylvania and 119th Pennsylvania. The 5th Wisconsin was on the right, and the 49th Pennsylvania on the left, and the 119th Pennsylvania was formed in the rear.

"Our first charge on the angle was made at about 6:30 A. M. We were unable to accomplish any thing and were obliged to fall back to where we had formed for the charge. We had found the enemy entrenched in a ditch about four and a half or five feet deep, and five or six feet wide. They also had a battery in position further to our left that had a complete range on this ditch, and they poured a steady fire of grape and canister into us as we neared the ditch. As soon as we could reform we charged again with the same result as the first. We fell back this time only out of range of the battery fire, and were then ordered to pour our fire into this ditch. By so doing we were able to hold the enemy there and keep them down the remainder of the day.

"At about 7:30 to 8 o'clock A. M. Lieutenant Gibson of Company 'A' noticed a Confederate flag leaning against a White Oak tree standing pretty well to the left of our regiment, and very near the enemy's entrenchments. The flag had been rolled up about the flag staff and then leaned against the tree. On Lieutenant Gibson noticing this flag he remarked, 'Boys see that d——d rebel flag,' and the company began firing at it. At this instant Lieutenant Gibson fell, a rifle ball having struck him across the right temple. From this time on our fires were directed mostly in the direction of the tree and flag until the tree fell which was about dark. It fell length ways and partly into the ditch killing and injuring several of the enemy. On the next morning I was present when two of the Confederate surgeons were caring for their wounded, and saw them measure the tree that had been shot off by rifle balls, and they figured that it was about twenty-two inches in diameter where it was shot in two. The regiment was relieved about 8 o'clock P. M. of May 12, and fell back a short distance and lay on its arms until the next morning. We held the line at the 'Bloody Angle' from 6:30 A. M. until 8 o'clock P. M. May 12.

"Yours respectfully,

(Signed)

"WILLARD H. RICKABY"

Comrade Powrie—I regret to have to report that Comrade Tiffany is unable to be present with us this morning by reason of a very great affliction in the sudden death of his wife, whose remains he lays at rest this afternoon, and I move that the Secretary forward an expression of condolence and sympathy to Comrade Tiffany.

President—No motion will be necessary. The Secretary will do so.

Nothing is more gratifying than to know, as we do from the flood of letters received from our old comrades of the 6th Maine, that admiration of our old regiment is not confined to ourselves. The 6th Maine, than which a better regiment did not exist in the Army of the Potomac, is always proud to recognize its sister regiment, the 5th Wisconsin as its equal in all soldierly qualities.





There is not to be any rigid formality observed in the conduct of this meeting, and it will not only be in order but very acceptable that any one of the comrades should entertain us with reminiscences or remarks of any kind.

Judge Anderson—Under the head of reading communications, I desire to read one which reached me in a very peculiar manner. Perhaps some of you may read the Sunday Inter-Ocean. About three weeks ago, I think it was, there was a reference in the Sunday Inter-Ocean in the column which is devoted to soldier matters, to a paper which I read last year, and on account of that communication I received a letter from Lafayette, Ind., which perhaps will speak for itself. I received one letter making enquiry, which I answered, and in return I received this one. I intended to have brought both letters but I see I have only brought one.

The first letter I received was in regard to the statement I made of the death of John Lane of Company "A". He was shot just as we had run the last charge down into the gun at the "Bloody Angle", and he fell before he could pull the lanyard after having sighted the gun, and he stated that that was the first information that he had ever received about Lane.

He made very earnest inquiry also for another of our regiment—that had been detached to serve with Ayres' battery, by the name of John B. Secoy. Now, if any of you gentlemen can give me any information in regard to him I should be very glad to receive it, and I know that my correspondent would. You remember that while we were on the peninsula quite a number of our brigade were transferred to Ayers' battery, and this John Lane, who was killed at the "Bloody Angle", was one of them. He was, however, returned to the regiment.

"LAFAYETTE, IND., June 17, 1903.

"HON. JAMES S. ANDERSON, Manitowoc, Wis.:

"Dear Sir and Comrade—I was very glad to receive your reply October 12, 'tis good for a person to hear occasionally from some of the old boys, though not personally acquainted.

"Do not know that I could relate anything interesting to the 5th Wisconsin, but might do something to remove the erroneous opinions held by most of the soldiers of the Civil War, regarding the regular army, and its conduct during the same. If our battery was any criterion, the regulars, at least those regiments ordered to be organized by act of Congress, May, 1861, were composed of about the same heterogeneous element as the volunteers, not all foreigners as was generally supposed. They were not abused, nor were they better provided for, excepting as their officers saw to it, that they got all that Uncle Sam furnished them, and you know our beloved uncle was a liberal provider. To prove this: our battery had about forty volunteers attached from eleven different infantry regiments—the 5th Wisconsin furnishing two—John Lane and John Secoy. Any or all of them could have returned to these several regiments upon their own application. Not a single one ever showed any desire to do so. This certainly shows that they were not abused, and as every division of the Army of the Potomac contained one Regular Battery, and all or nearly all had volunteers attached, it would look to 'a man up a tree', that the Regular Army was not 'hell.' Another false impression held by the volunteers of '61 was that the regulars were 'pets' and got more than volunteers. was not a fact, excepting as the following may show ours (Ayers' battery) drew supplies from the commissary of the Vermont brigade, from the fall of '61 to spring of '64, the same as all the Vermont regiments. We had a first sergeant (he would have punished any man for calling him 'orderly' sergeant) who was serving his third enlistment. He was a thorough disciplinarian, we in our salad days called him a tyrant—but he was merely strict. One day either in the fall of '61 or the spring of '62 he heard that the commissary of the brigade had *fresh* potatoes, now you know Army Regulations say, that officers may purchase provisions from the Commissary Department at cost after the command has been supplied—beautiful in theory, but usually works in reverse ratio. Making out his requisition that day for supplies instead of calling for 'desecated' he asked for fresh potatoes. The quartermaster sergeant returned, telling the first sergeant that the commissary said that there were only enough fresh potatoes to supply the officers. The first sergeant sent the quartermaster sergeant back again to say to the commissary (a lieutenant from one of the Vermont regiments) that he insisted on having the requisition filled complete. The commissary replied, 'you tell that d—d Dutch sergeant of yours to go to hell,' or words to that effect, he may have made it stronger even. Returning, the quartermaster sergeant related the reply of the commissary; by this time it





CONFEDERATES DEFENDING STONE WALL  
WHERE FIFTH WISCONSIN AND SIXTH MAINE CAPTURED IT MAY 3, 1863.







must have been nearly evening. The captain to whom the first sergeant went for instructions said, 'Sergeant, go yourself with the quartermaster sergeant convey my compliments to Mr. (I forgot the name) and tell him that the requisition *must* be filled if the desired articles are in the Commissary Department. What that sergeant did tell the commissary about Army Regulations must have been a plenty, of course all in the name, and by authority of Captain Ayres. We got our fresh potatoes late that night, and Ayers' battery was the only company that had fresh potatoes in the whole brigade, and ever after got all requisitions called for if supplies were at hand. This shows that our officers, or what was better non-commissioned officers knew their rights. All this of course was known in the battery next day, the potatoes spoke for themselves, and we never called our first sergeant 'Tyrant,' any more, for you know all that a soldier thinks of in camp is his 'grub.' Oh Lord, I wish that I had the appetite now that I had then.

"Here in this community nearly all soldiers served in the western armies, they know but little of the Army of the Potomac or its achievements, and seem to think that they were the whole cheese during the Civil War. I do indeed remember the 5th Wisconsin, and have many times boasted that I had the honor to belong to the best division of the best corps of the grandest army ever on this or any other continent. History may do justice to the Army of the Potomac, this generation surely does not.

"Please convey to your surviving members the greetings of one who like yourselves did not wait till the government offered bounties to make you come forward.

"If you can ascertain any particulars regarding John B. Secoy, you will confer a favor to inform me.

"Yours truly,

"JOHN OPPENHEIMER,

"Ayers' battery, 'F', 5th, U. S. Artillery"

Secretary Engle—I wrote General Cobb, asking him if he could be with us at this time. I understood from his reply that he could not. I then requested him to write something to be read here, covering some part of our service. He promised to do so, but a few days ago I received a letter from him saying that some way he could not get himself at it, and he thought that the next best thing that he could do would be to send to the Association a photograph of himself and it is here for you all to see this morning—a fine picture of our dear old commander. The picture will appear in our report.

I also have a picture of from Julius Enert, of Company 'A', which will also be in the report.

Professor Beach, of the East Side High School, Milwaukee. 3d New York Cavalry—I hope you will excuse an outsider for speaking, but I belonged to the 3d Cavalry which came in contact with the 5th Wisconsin on a number of occasions, and I have several very distinct recollections of the 5th, which perhaps you might like to hear.

President—We would be very glad to hear from you, Professor.

Professor Beach—One was at Elkton Landing, Sunday afternoon. I have a vivid recollection of a dress parade which was had by Colonel Cobb out in front of that regiment; and the parade was conducted in a quiet selfpossessed way which attracted my admiration under the circumstances. I think it was one of the finest dress parade I ever saw.

At White Oak Swamp, part of the 5th Regiment formed the rear guard, and part had been guarding a ford along the creek. (To the President: You remember it.)

President—Yes, I was there.

Professor Beach—I think it was about half past 11 or 12 o'clock at night, and our five companies were drawn up and we were so tired we were asleep on our horses; but we were waiting for that detachment of the 5th Wisconsin to come in, and they came into the open where we were and filed along in front of us and not a man spoke a word until the command was given to stack arms and rest; and in an instant those men were all on the ground fast asleep, except one man, and he walked out in front of our line and said, "Is there any one here that can give me a drink of water?" No body answered him—they were all asleep, and I was about half asleep, but I remember what he said: "Is there any one here that can give me a drink of water?" No body answered him and he went back and laid down, and he was soon asleep. After a little interval the command was given to fall in; they were instantly on their feet and moving off and we followed. I think that that



night we slept on our horses, and I think some of the 5th Wisconsin slept while they were walking. I remember Lieutenant Oliver was one of them.

Somewhere that night we halted and instantly we were off our horses and on the ground fast asleep, holding our reins. All at once there was a great clattering in the rear and we thought the Confederates were on us sure, and we sprang up and were on our horses instantly, but the scare was needless. It seems there was an old white horse tied to a rail fence near by and he got scared and pulled over a portion of the rail fence, which was the cause of the scare.

A private of my company was orderly for I don't remember what general, but there were two cannon of a battery where the horses were all killed and the cannon could not be brought away, and in the evening orders were sent to abandon the guns, spike them and fall back, as there were not horses enough to draw them away. Those men having charge of those two guns were indignant at the order and they buckled to and dragged the cannon off by hand. Does any one know whose battery that was?

President—That was Ayers' battery, commanded by Lieutenant Martin.

Comrade DeClark—In connection with that night's march (I think it must be the same time of the stampede of the white horse) we heard it was some artillery horses that stampeded. We were all dead asleep and we woke up very suddenly and put for the woods. I remember Colonel Cobb rushing out at the head of us and saying, "Fall in and hold the road against the very devil himself". (Laughter).

Professor Beach—I was down there two years ago and went all over those fields, and made an especial examination of White Oak Swamp, Glendale and Malvern Hill. Glendale was sometimes called the battle of Nelson's Farm. When I was there last I found Nelson himself, and in those battles he was a guide for some of the Confederate generals.

President—It is most interesting for me to learn for the first time that my friend, Professor Beach (whom I have had the pleasure of knowing for a number of years) and I were so near together so many years ago. The company that the professor referred to was "F" of the 5th Wisconsin, and was under my command. The facts are (as some of our regiment will recall) that there was a very large number of wagons, and the army was held there as long as possible to enable the teams to get away. My company was ordered out to go down near the railway and remain there till ordered back. We waited till long after dark and received no orders whatever to come back. We could see in the distance that the army itself had moved away, and we were in a quandary as to what to do, and I consulted with the officers and men of our regiment, (I presume Colonel Butterfield will recall the facts) and we finally concluded to move out without any order, and we did so. The regiment had been gone for such a length of time, however, that we had lost our way and were unable to find it. We wandered around and after a long time we were enabled to rejoin our regiment. I was not aware before that a company of cavalry was near us.

Now, regarding the battery that remained there after the army left. I am quite sure I am correct about this, and the facts are these: General Hancock has told me so, and Lieutenant Martin, who commanded that section of the battery has told me so. The object of the commander of the Army of the Potomac was, of course, to deceive the enemy and to give him the impression that we were still holding the position in front of White Oak Swamp, and it was for that reason that he directed Martin, with two guns, to hold that position. I think it is a mistake to say it was Mott's battery, because Mott's battery had disappeared as related in the paper read by Judge Anderson. It was a section either of one or two guns of the 5th Battery, commanded by Captain Ayres, whom we all remember, and who afterwards became a Brigadier-General. Martin was directed to remain there and to fire occasionally, and the understanding was (and General Hancock gave me this himself) that Martin and his guns would be sacrificed. Martin stayed, and as we were marching in retreat that night, I recall every once in a while hearing the distant boom of the cannon behind us. That continued for two or three hours and finally the danger of a stampede, to which the professor alludes, arose from this fact, that Martin concluded that he had stayed long enough, and concluded not to spike his guns but to bring them away, and so he did, the clatter of the artillery and the horses coming down the road fell upon the ears of the sleeping army and they aroused quickly, and there was a good deal of commotion and excitement, but it was very soon allayed. I think those are the facts in regard to the episode at White Oak Swamp.







So far as the 20th New York is concerned (if Judge Anderson will pardon me) I have a very distinct recollection of that regiment. You will remember that the main line of battle of Smith's division faced White Oak Swamp. Our regiment, this glorious 5th Wisconsin regiment, the remnants of which are here to day, was detached and ordered down to a position just at right angles to the main line of battle. There was a house there which was alluded to also in the paper read by Judge Anderson in which the generals were enjoying themselves, I suppose. At the left of the house were three batteries, Mott's, Ayers' and Griffin's. Now the 5th Wisconsin, as I say, was at right angles to the main line of battle, and I had been directed to send down five or six men as a sort of vidette, still further towards the swamp. There were Sergeant Steen, private John Jones, and four others, I believe. Well, Steen came back to me after we were down there, our company "F" being near the right of the regiment, only company "A" being still further to the right, and said to me, "Why, look here; the other fellows are right down by the swamp there: they are getting artillery in position; we can hear them distinctly"; and it was very interesting information. I communicated it at once, as was my duty, to the colonel and how it was communicated to the generals at the house I do not know, but it must have been. That went on and we lay there for, I think, about an hour, when a fearful cannonade opened. Now, the firing was right along our front and directed at this house, and the main line of battle, unhappily for this German regiment, the 20th New York, who wore hats and little brass ornaments on the hats, for some reason or other had been sent out right in front of the main line of battle and were right square in the direction of the fire of the rebel artillery, when that opened. They scattered like blackbirds; they went all over the peninsula and whether they have ever been gathered together to this day or not, I don't know (Laughter). Certainly nothing more was seen of them as an organization during that campaign. It was fortunate for us, the 5th Wisconsin, that the firing was directed along our line, and we looked with soldierly complacency upon the skirmish. The house was destroyed, a black man was killed, and the marvel of it is that no officer of high rank was killed.

Now, Comrade Martin told me this story, which in this connection may be interesting. Martin was a lieutenant under Captain Ayres of Company "F" of the 5th Artillery. He says that just prior to the firing, Captain Ayres had been refreshing himself with some milk that the farmers had brought in there, and was just passing the bottle in a courteous way to his officer, Mr. Martin, when the firing began. Lieutenant Martin stood there with his hand extended, but Captain Ayres changed his demeanor instantly and said "Mr. Martin, join your battery" (Laughter) and the convivial part of the meeting was very suddenly brought to a close. Martin said that the firing was terrific, and when he went out to join his battery unconsciously he kept up his coat, as if he had been going out into a storm.

Mott's battery, the Professor says, went down. My recollection of it is, that after the firing there was not very much left of Mott's battery. It was very seriously disabled. Ayers' battery joined Griffin's battery still beyond the swamp and then those splendid batteries got in their work and silenced the fire of the enemy.

Several members of the regiment recall some amusing incidents of this affair. One officer of our regiment, a very large portly man, was disconcerted at this fire. He fell down on his face, and being somewhat corpulent the boys named him 'tipup' after some bird, and there were several other officers who found it convenient to absent themselves on this occasion. Perhaps it was justified because it was really a very stirring day.

The next day was the day of Melvern Hill. It was a very hard march, but in the morning we were fresh and on duty and present, but happily not seriously engaged in that battle.

It is quite important, I think, that we should be as accurate as possible in these matters, because, I have this idea, my friends, that the real true history of that great war has not yet been written. It will be some time, when some patient writer shall search the proceedings of just such meetings as these are, when a man gets up and says, "I was there—I am the fellow—it was not my grandfather or my uncle—it was I; I certainly know"—and Butterfield knows, and Anderson knows, just exactly what occurred. And referring to the incident at White Oak Swamp, it is quite important that we should be accurate in any statement that we make about that matter, and it is not unimportant that these things should be discussed somewhat in extenso so as to get down to the very naked truth.



Comrade Iversen—In regard to the fat officer I will say that when we got out of the angle and were doublequicking back towards the rear, he fell over as I was running by him, and two of the company tried to pick him up and drag him along, and I said, "Let the old fool lay, he is only playing off".

Secretary—I notice that General Gordon is writing some articles in Scribners, along the line of his experience in there and in northern Virginia, and in the last one, or perhaps it was the April number, he refers to the recapturing of Maryes Heights on the morning of May 4th, saying that he must have misunderstood an order some way from his superior officer, and when he had about half executed the attack and the men were going on a charge, he had a countermand to his order, but it was too late, and he was told by his superior officer afterwards that his success probably saved him from a court martial. That was on the morning of the 4th of May. On the morning of May 4, I happened to be on Stafford Height; I came down the hill and across the pontoon bridge, where there were a few guards, went up through Hanover Street on my way to Maryes Heights with the intent of joining the corps at Salem church or in that neighborhood. Of course I did not know exactly where the 6th Army Corps was, but in going along up Hanover Street I came to a house built exactly after the pattern of Maryes House—three columns in front, a projecting gable and three windows in the upper story, two windows and a door in the first floor, and from the center upper window there appeared two very fine, attractive looking young ladies. I think I was the only soldier in Fredericksburg on either side, except down by the pontoon bridge, and they began singing the Bonny Blue Flag. I thought they looked very nice, and I enjoyed the singing very much, and when they got through I asked them to sing another one, but they declined and told me I had better go along, that Mr. Lee would be in there within an hour with his army. Well, I told them that if I recollected right, General Lee had all he wanted the day before at Maryes Heights, but I passed on, and thanked them for the song they gave me, and went out the telegraph road which is a continuation of Hanover Street, and went up and turned to my right and ascended a little elevation there and stopped to see if I could hear any firing or anything which would direct me to the corps. While I was standing there looking around and facing up to the river or to the north and west, I looked around directly down the sunken road and saw a column of Confederate troops marching behind the stone wall. I was unarmed and alone and I made a break for the rear across the little bridge over the telegraph road, but I did not go past the Gordon house where the two young ladies were singing. Now I would like to know if there was any capture of Maryes Heights other than what I say, by General Gordon or anybody else on the morning of May 4.

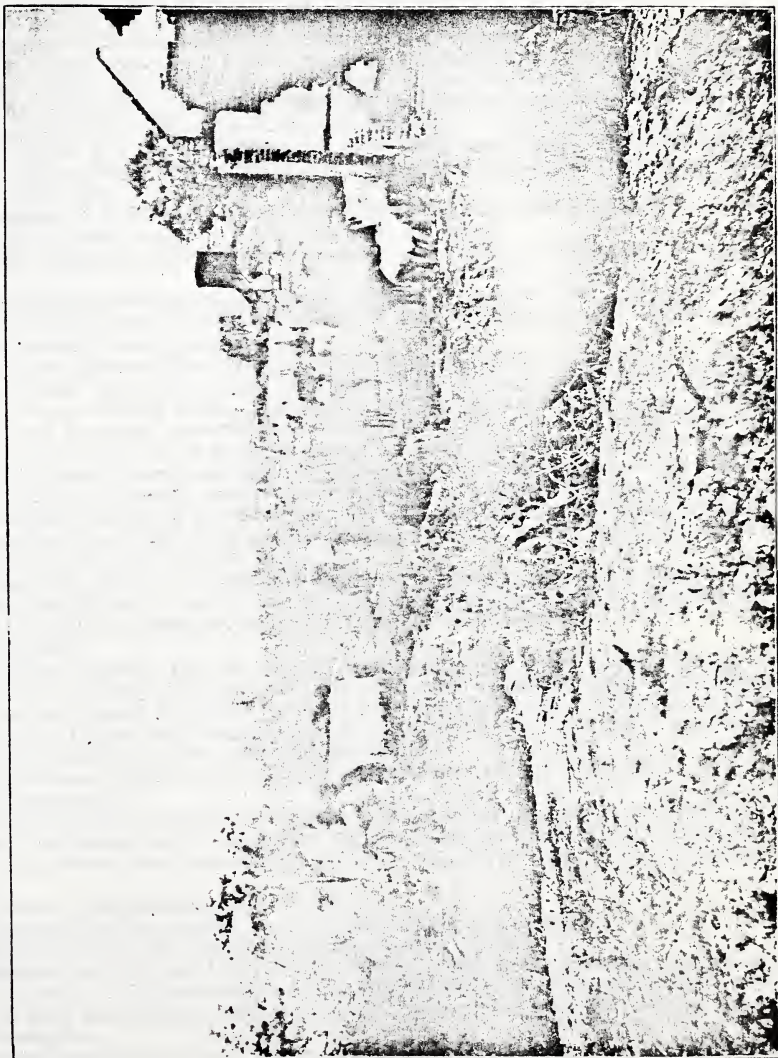
Comrade Pierce—I do not think there was any resistance—they walked in.

Judge Adderson—After we carried the heights and things seemed to be safe, Lieutenant Gibson sent myself and one or two more of the boys to go down and look after matters, and I went down, and Crocker of my company was with me, and one or two others—I have forgotten who—and we went around and picked up some of the boys and carried them into that large brick house in the middle of the plain, and others were doing the same, and along in the afternoon, quietly, we started to follow the corps (just as Comrade Engle states) had our guns along, and when we got pretty well into that wide plain probably three-quarters of a mile, and it must have been in the direction of the woods (the woods were about a mile from the edge of the hill) and we got about two-thirds or three-fourth of the way towards the woods, following the road, and all of a sudden, to my front and left I saw a line of rebel skirmishers coming along. I had got so by that time I could recognize a rebel when I saw him, and it kind of made us pause, and there were some of the boys ahead of us that were pausing, turning back, and they fired one or two shots at us, but it was a pretty long range and we kept falling back, and they kept thickening up, and we retired slightly; it was pretty long musket range, but they did open fire on us, and a few of us replied. Of course it was natural for us to fight back in those days, even on our own hook, and we kept falling back and occasionally stopped to fire, but after a while we got where we had to hurry, because the rebels were kind of working towards the hill, and apparently making an effort to cut us off, and we had to go right sharp. When we got about to the top of the hill there was quite a commotion down in Fredericksburg, and they were picking up the wounded and taking them across the river as fast as they could, and an officer came out and began to take charge of us, and when we got back to Maryes House we found a line of works there and we hated to go any further. We had taken those









WILLIS HILL. SOUTH END OF MARYES HILL LINE, REAR STONE WALL, FREDERICKSBURG, VA.



things in the morning and thought they belonged to us, and we lay down at those works and began to dispute the passage of the enemy. This officer came out and drew us further back. He saw it was of no use to attempt to stop them with a skirmish line, and we were drawn back clear to that little ridge, where we lay down and started on that charge; we went right back to that very identical ridge, and an officer of some regiment, I don't know who he was, a captain, assumed authority there—who gave it to him I don't know—and he gathered up the men as they came back and formed them into quite a respectable and strong line right on that very ridge that we started from to make the charge, and we lay there and we checked them, we stopped them from coming down the hill. They held the lines on the top of the hill and of course commanded the city of Fredericksburg.

President—The line was at the right of the redoubt.

Judge Anderson—Yes, from where we started, from that point of view. We held them right there and there were shots exchanged at intervals all through the day. The rebels did not attempt to come any further than that, and that is really all there was of the recapture of Maryes Heights. There was no strong force anywhere in there, but the stragglers on their own hook, boys that were seeking to rejoin their regiment and caring for the wounded, did oppose them as well as they could without men.

Comrade Robert Bell—Don't you remember the rebels coming over the rifle pit? I think there was pretty near a whole regiment.

Judge Anderson—I think some of them came down and occupied part of a stone wall.

Comrade Bell—They came over the wall.

Judge Anderson—I was there probably till 6 o'clock and they did not make any serious attempt to recapture the city.

Comrade Pierce—The breaking of the 20th New York was amusing from some points of view. As I remember, they went back without guns, hats, knapsacks or anything else—simply wild. Part of the 5th Wisconsin had to go and occupy the ground they deserted, and remained there until just about the time that we commenced to fall back for that night alarm. I remember opening up an elegant outfit that we found there complete, and I presume some of you remember that we were not in a specially cleanly condition—the bathing facilities were not very good—and those clothes were very nice and just as clean as could be, and I took certain measurements and made up my mind that the outfit that I found would fit me, and the consequence was that I had a new outfit.

President—The next order of business will be the election of officers.

Comrade Pierce—I move that the Secretary be instructed to cast the ballot of the Association for those same officers to succeed themselves.

Seconded.

President Bean—You have been kind enough, partial enough to me to have elected me President of this Association for three successive times, and I would very much prefer to yield the place to some other comrade equally capable and equally worthy, and I especially request that you will nominate some other member of the society to preside over the meetings hereafter.

Mr. Pierce—There is a motion before the house, properly seconded; will the President please put it?

President Bean—Really, comrades, I am in earnest about this. There are others who can discharge the duties of this office at least as well as I. I have been here for several terms, and I would be greatly obliged to you if you would omit my name.

[Voices—Out, of order, out of order.]

Comrade Pierce—As the mover of the motion I will put it.

Motion put by Mr. Pierce and unanimously carried.

Secretary—We could not be as well satisfied in a President as we are with Captain Bean. We are confident of the fact that he is especially gifted to be President of this Association, and I think the fellow that gets the best of the roast is the Secretary.

Judge Anderson—Is not there to be a Vice-President from each company elected?

Secretary—Yes.

Motion made, seconded and unanimously carried to re-elect the same Vice-President from each company.





Mr. Pierce—In making the motion I did to re-elect the old officers, I meant to have included a resolution of our appreciation of the able manner in which they have conducted the affairs of their offices.

President—Comrade Powrie will give us a lecture this evening, with lantern slides, and present a number of war views.

Recess until 2 P. M.

Called to order, same day and place, 2:45 P. M., by the President.

Comrades—I think we will listen to a paper by Judge Anderson, and after that is read we will indulge again in miscellaneous discussion.

Judge Anderson then read his paper.

Before commencing his paper Judge Anderson said:

Gentlemen—The subject of this paper is a continuation of the history of the regiment through the Wilderness campaign. It is a record of a much less strenuous period than that of my last paper, but it was the request of several of the comrades that I continue the history from Spottsylvania onward, so that the regimental history for that period will be reasonably complete.

During the reading of the paper Judge Anderson made the following comments:

In the official reports I find the order from General Meade in exactly those words, "To send his best division, or a division under his best division commander, to follow the cavalry".

Those of you that have noticed the article I have read before, in the conclusion of which I made mention of Coal Harbor and stated that Captain Butterfield and Lieutenant Cram were among the wounded, I should have said it was Captain Cook and Lieutenant Cram that were wounded.

## THROUGH THE WILDERNESS WITH GRANT.

BY JUDGE J. S. ANDERSON.

(Continued from last report.)

The paper read by me at the last session of the Association, brought the history of the Wilderness Campaign up to and including May 12, 1864, giving an account of the struggle at the "Bloody Angle." That date marked the termination of the heaviest fighting and the paper closed with that period. I have been requested to continue the narration of that period of our regimental history so that we may have a history in chronological order for the entire period commencing May 4, 1864, to the end of our service. I shall therefore resume the story of our movements, from the time of the incidents of the "Bloody Angle".

The regiment was relieved from the front line at the "Angle" a little after dark. The time has been estimated by various members of the regiment to be from 7 to 8:30 P. M. It fell back badly scattered. In the morning of the 13th, we were gathered together in a little grassy field in rear of the place where the murderous fighting of the previous day had taken place. There were about a hundred of us, and we sat in a misty drizzly rain, cleaned our guns and got them into serviceable condition, got rations and rested as best we could. Along in the forenoon the sun came out and was a welcome sight to the tired men, who had fought all the day previous in the mud and rain and lain on the wet ground for a resting place during the night.

All this day, especially in our front, light skirmishing was going on constantly, our men pushing the rebel skirmishers back in order to develop the new line the enemy had taken up in rear of the "Bloody Angle". Near nightfall we moved up to the works which had been captured on the 12th, and lay there all night, prepared for any attempt on the part of the enemy to recapture them.

Just before daylight on the morning of the 14th, we moved off to the left and formed a junction with the 9th Corps, which we found skirmishing hotly with the enemy in the early morning light. We lay in line of battle till afternoon, apparently in support of some expected movement, when we again fell in and marched off still further to the left and had a brisk little skirmish fight. The Jersey Brigade had been skirmishing under the leadership of General Upton, to find out the position of the enemy, and ran into a heavy force forming on the left flank of Burnside's army. I do not recall any losses in the regiment this day. The fighting was mostly artillery shots which came from a rebel battery across a stream, which we



afterwards found was the Po River. Our boys charged across the stream through water up to their waists and on to the heights, when the battery limbered up and went to the rear in a hurry. We returned and formed in line behind some rifle pits and lay quietly all night.

The next day was Sunday, the 15th, and all was quiet save an occasional cannon shot from the lines to our left. We remained in the rifle pits all this day and night, and the next day—the 16th—we drew five days' rations. I was with the detail that went to bring the rations up, and an entry in my diary showed that we drew rations for only 864 men for the entire brigade, including non-combatants, indicating a loss of 1496 men since we had started on the campaign.

We lay in the rifle pits all day expecting an attack, as the enemy was close in our immediate front. Our pickets were at one time attacked and driven in, but the line being strengthened drove back the enemy, and no attack in force was made upon us. On Tuesday, the 17th, we still remained in the rifle pits until just after dark, when we strapped on our knapsacks and went two or three miles to the right, where the 2d Corps was stationed. We formed line of battle on their right and rear and lay on the ground all night.

Next morning, the 18th, we formed a line extended on the right of the 2d Corps, moving to the front under a very heavy fire of artillery. The rebels had sent a force around to our right flank and rear to try to get at our wagon train, but the 2d Corps and a part of the 6th Corps drove them back and broke up the movement. After they were repulsed, we marched back across the Po River again, and took position in our old breastworks.

This night was memorable to many of us, for here we found the first mail that had reached the regiment since the time we broke camp at Brandy Station. Alas, there were many, very many, to whom no letters or papers could be delivered. There were letters there, written days after the soldier to whom they were addressed had filled a warrior's grave in the Wilderness.

We lay here all this night in our old breastworks and got a little rest, but early in the morning we moved out to the front again and built new works on an advanced line, only to leave them that night about 11 o'clock. The rebels had again tried to pass around our right and rear in order to get at our trains, but were handsomely whipped by a brigade of heavy artillery, commanded by Colonel Kitching. Our division moved on to the ground, where the battle of the 12th had been fought, and lay there all day of the 20th and also all that night, without fighting, except the skirmishing of the advanced lines feeling the enemy, evidently seeking for an opening to charge their lines, or else to provoke an attack by the enemy, but they seemed to be in no mood to force the fighting, and their lines appeared to be too strongly fortified for us to attack with any prospect of success.

On Saturday, the 21st, our division was withdrawn from the line we had occupied the day previous, near what is now called the "Bloody Angle", and the Fredericksburg road abandoned, and we, together with the 5th Corps, fell back towards the left to a position near the one we held on the 19th.

As we were leaving the lines the rebels charged, but met with a bloody repulse, being badly cut up, losing many killed and wounded besides some prisoners.

Up to this time we had been maneuvering backwards and forwards along the line, marching by night, feeling the enemy with skirmishers by day, seeking for a vulnerable point to attack, or to provoke the enemy to attack us, which he persistently declined to do, except in a desultory and feeble way. We were in touch with the enemy constantly, under artillery and rifle fire day and night, yet we had only two or three men killed and wounded in all these nine days' operations following the fight at the "Bloody Angle" on the 12th.

General Grant evidently became satisfied that to continue his attacks on the enemy's fortified position would cost too much even if successful, and now began another of his flank movements by the left. We moved at 9 o'clock on the night of Saturday, the 21st, not knowing much about our destination, or what the movement was. Sunrise found us resting at Halliday's plantation, on the road to Guinney's Station. We resumed our march and arrived at the latter place about 11 o'clock in the forenoon. Here we rested until about 4 p. m., when we again took up our line of march and moved near to a place known as Wilson's Tavern, where we arrived about 9 o'clock at night. We lay down on the ground in our blankets and had what we called in those days, a good night's rest.





At 9 o'clock next morning, the 23d, we moved out again. After a march of an hour or two, we rested in a large field near our wagon trains and drew rations. This done we resumed our march and pushed rapidly forward. We heard heavy cannonading ahead of us, and at dusk arrived on the field and found Warren's 5th Corps actively engaged. We also heard heavy firing during the afternoon, away to the North and East of us, said to be by Burnside's troops. We lay in line of battle all night to the right and in support of Warren's men. In the morning we learned that we were across the North Anna River at a place called Ox Ford. We remained on this line till about 5 o'clock P. M., when we moved to the left to connect our lines with the 5th Corps. We lay there in line of battle all night. As soon as it was light enough, heavy skirmishing began in the front of the 5th Corps, but our front was quiet, although our skirmishers were in touch on most parts of the line.

After we had our coffee, we strapped on our knapsacks and moved a short distance to the rear, then moved off to the right and went to work tearing up a railroad, said to be the Virginia Central. We tore up and destroyed very thoroughly, about three miles of road from near Beaver Dam Station towards Saxton's Junction. We tore up the track, piled up the ties and also some rails from the fences close by, set them on fire and laid the rails composing the track crosswise over the fire; when red hot and soft they were twisted around trees and posts. Nearly the whole 1st Division was engaged in this work of destruction. Several cars were also burned. The enemy did not molest us during this time except that a couple of shells were thrown, but the battery was quickly silenced by our guns. After our work was done we moved back to our old position near the 5th Corps, which seemed to keep up incessant skirmish fighting at that point.

Early in the morning of the 26th, we marched back across the North Anna River and went to the left, passing in rear of the 5th and 2d Corps, to a place called Colansville, where we remained the rest of the day. General Meade sent orders to General Wright to send his best division, or the division under his best division commander, to follow the cavalry in another flanking movement by the left. Our division was selected for the work. As soon as it was dark we took up the line of march in the rear of a cavalry division and marched all night towards Nongohick Church. The sun came out hot and bright the next day, but we pushed rapidly and relentlessly on. We passed Mongohick Church about 9 A. M. of the 27th; it was a little country chapel in a grove, and had evidently been used by the cavalry of both sides as headquarters. A number of the pews had been carried out and placed under the trees, and in them were a number of officers resting, some of them stretched out on the hard seats, with their hats over their faces, sound asleep, after the fatigue of the night.

I think the survivors of the division who can recall that march will agree with me that it was one of the hardest we ever made. After we passed Mongohick Church the face of the country changed. It was more open, cleared fields were on every hand, and as we marched through the open country the sun beat down pitilessly upon us. Before 11 o'clock the cavalry horses began to drop, and our route was marked by lines of dead animals on both sides of the road, and by a double stream of cavalymen straggling on with their saddles over their arms. The whole command straggled badly, but kept pouring on as best they could along the sides of the road, determined to keep as near to their comrades as possible. It was not merely the distance covered, though that was considerable, which broke us up, but it was the pace at which we were forced in order to keep within supporting distance of the cavalry.

Both armies were engaged in a race to secure the fords and crossings of the Pamunkey River. We won the race, and about half past 3 or 4 o'clock crossed at a ford and took position on the south and west sides of the Pamunkey River near Hanover Town, exhausted and worn out. The cavalry pushed out a mile or so further and a few regiments followed to form a skirmish line, but the rest of us threw ourselves on the ground in an open field, under the burning afternoon sun, and slept. This march remains in my memory as the hardest we ever made, harder even than the memorable march of the 6th Corps from Westminster to Gettysburg.

We lay on the field in front of the ford all day of the 28th, resting, as best we could, after our terrible march of the day and previous night, of which I have told, and just before dark fell into line and marched towards the front and left, where





WASHINGTON ARTILLERY ON MARYES HILL, DEFENDING AGAINST ATTACK MAY 3, 1863.





we found the other divisions of our own Corps and also the 2d Corps, already strongly intrenched.

They were in touch with the enemy at several points, and we had heard the booming of cannon at intervals during the day, though there seemed to be no heavy fighting. We took position in the breastworks, a detail having been made to go on the skirmish line. We lay here all night and rested, undisturbed by the enemy.

Next day was Sunday, the 29th, and it was comparatively quiet on our front during the forenoon. Soon after noon we were ordered to fall into line. We marched to the right and toward our front in the direction of Hanover Station. Before we reached that place, we struck the railroad and paused long enough to destroy several railroad bridges which crossed the creeks and small rivers in that vicinity. About the time we reached the railroad we met a force of rebel cavalry which our skirmish line kept on the move, as fast as they could march, although they fought tenaciously to delay our advance. We lay all night on the skirmish line, close to Hanover Station, in the woods. As soon as it was daylight, the rebels began to feel our lines and a heavy skirmish fire was opened all along our front. Several times during the morning, it seemed as if our skirmish line was giving way and that we would be heavily engaged, but the skirmishers hung on to their line and repulsed all efforts of the enemy to drive them in. We were relieved from the skirmish line late in the forenoon by men of the 2d Corps, and our division then marched back and joined the rest of the 6th Corps, which lay in line of battle on both sides of the turnpike leading from Hanover Court House to Richmond. We formed in line in rear of the 2d Division and lay there all night undisturbed by the enemy.

In the early morning of the 31st we moved a short distance to the left, evidently to strengthen the line against an expected attack. A heavy skirmish fire began on our front as soon as the day dawned and continued until the middle of the afternoon. As usual strong breastworks were built. The afternoon and night passed in comparative peace, neither side attacking in force, but with occasional skirmishing and sharp-shooting going on even in the night. An hour or two before day-break our officers passed along the line of sleepers and in a low tone ordered the men to fall into line as quickly and quietly as possible. We marched through the woods to the left and rear until we reached the road leading to Coal Harbor, into which we filed, and plodded on toward that place. The day was very hot, and the road having been heavily trodden by the cavalry ahead of us, was very dusty and we suffered extremely from the heat. About 3 or 4 o'clock we arrived in the neighborhood of Coal Harbor, where we found the cavalry engaged with a force of infantry, said to be some of Beauregard's men from the district south of Richmond. We began to form lines of battle on each side of the road and while so doing, a column of troops appeared marching from the east and at its head rode our old commander, "Baldy Smith". It seemed good to see the old familiar face again and it was doubly welcome when we learned that he was at the head of the 18th Army Corps, which had that day marched from our old camping grounds at White House Landing, no less than twelve thousand strong.

We were in touch with the enemy from the moment our lines began to deploy and it soon became evident that we were forming column for attack. We had here a curious illustration of how deceiving the topography of a country may be to the unpracticed and untrained eye. At the opening of the fight we were marched into a depression, a small ravine which ran parallel with our line and lay on the slope in what we thought was secure cover. The practiced eye of General Wright noticed the rebels placing a battery off to our left and we were ordered out of that place on the double quick, to form in an open field in front of a battery which fired over our heads. We were in what we thought a terribly exposed position. In a few moments the rebel guns opened and as we looked down the slope we could see the ravine where we had previously been stationed, raked from end to end with shrapnel. Had we remained there we must inevitably have been cut to pieces. Our battery opened behind us, and after a few rounds the rebel artillery was silenced.

The whole line then moved forward in an assault on the works, which resulted most disastrously on the whole, portions of the works were carried, but the loss was very heavy along the line of both the 6th and 18th Corps. A regiment of Connecticut heavy artillery, which went in on our right, lost nearly half of their whole number, largely through bad management on the part of their officers. Our regiment was in support of the attacking line, and the broken troops, as they came back, rallied



upon us, forming on our right and left. We had no opportunity to fire until our front was cleared, when we opened fire and checked the enemy. We held what ground had been gained, and that night intrenched strongly.

The loss out of our little number in this affair was two killed and fifteen wounded, among the latter two officers, Captain Jacob Cook of Company "I", and Lieutenant B. F. Cram of Company "F".

Next day, the 2d of June, there was heavy cannonading and skirmishing all day and into the night. The 2d Corps moved up and took position on our left, relieving that part of the 18th Corps which had previously occupied that position. Our position was so far in advance of the general line that the rebels had an enfilading fire on us from the batteries on the left. We were ordered to be ready to assault the lines in our front at 5 P. M. of this day, but the order was countermanded later.

About 4 o'clock on the morning of the 3d of June, our forces again assaulted the rebel lines, which assault was only partially successful. Our brigade secured a position about six hundred yards further in front which was immediately intrenched. In the artillery firing which followed, the rebels blew up a caisson and two wagon loads of ammunition. Skirmishing and artillery firing raged all day, and at dusk the rebels charged our line and were repulsed with heavy loss.

The 4th opened with a drizzling rain which continued all day. All was quiet in our front, except some sharp-shooting. The rebels threw a few shells in the forenoon, but their guns were quickly silenced by our batteries. In the evening they made another assault on our left, apparently determined to regain their position at that point, but were repulsed. A little later the same night they again assaulted, but received a hot reception and were easily repulsed.

On Sunday, the 5th, the day passed without much of interest. There was of course the inevitable sharp-shooting. Our regiment occupied the front line this day. The rebels opened on us for the first time since Yorktown, with a mortar battery and the vertical shells made it mighty disagreeable for us, though they did not do very much damage. We remained on the front line all night and all day of the 6th. Our line was so close to the enemy at this point that there was an almost incessant flight of bullets over the works. There was a thin skirt of pine trees in front which was cut almost to pieces by musketry. After nightfall we were relieved by the 49th Pennsylvania and went back to the third fortified line, the 119th Pennsylvania occupying the second line. There was occasional shelling and constant sharp-shooting all along the line. We remained in the rear line during the 7th and 8th. Although in the rear line we were still under incessant rifle fire, and one of the 23d Pennsylvania was wounded by a rifle bullet while carrying a wounded man to the rear of our regiment. After dark, on the 8th, we returned to the front line and spent the night and next day at the breastworks.

On the night of the 9th we were relieved from the front by the 11th Vermont, also called the 1st Vermont Heavy Artillery, and went back to the rear to rest and clean up a little. We were still so close to the enemy, that the bullets from the sharp-shooters would kill and wound the men as they went down to the spring for water to drink and cook with. On the 10th we set up our shelter tents for the first time since the campaign opened, and the 11th is memorable as the first chance we had to wash our clothes since the 4th day of May. On the night of the 11th we returned again to the front line and remained all that night and the day of the 12th, on the afternoon of which day we got orders to be ready to march at dark. After dark we moved silently out, leaving only a picket line in the works.

We marched back to the rear, then turned to the left and went about six miles, where we rested till daylight, when we again resumed our route and marched to the Chicahominy River, which we crossed at Jones' Bridge and camped about a mile from the stream. Next day, the 14th, about 9 o'clock A. M., we moved again, forming the rear guard of the corps. About 2 o'clock P. M. we arrived near Charles City Court House, where we rested about an hour, when we resumed our march, late in the afternoon reached the James River, where we spent the balance of this day and all the next, on fatigue duty, building a road.

All who were with the regiment at that time will remember what a busy scene was presented to our view when we reached the bluff overlooking the river. The stream was filled with war ships and transports, and across the stream was a pontoon bridge more than a mile long, over which the artillery and trains were rushing,







while steamers were crowded with troops being ferried to the south bank of the James.

On Thursday, June 16th, about 11 o'clock A. M., we marched back from the river and joined the corps on the line they held as rear guard of the army. We had not been in touch with the enemy since we left Coal Harbor on the 12th. Four days without being under hostile fire. The experience was novel but very restful. At dusk we marched down to the river and embarked on transports, which carried us across to City Point.

The campaign of the Wilderness was ended, and that of Petersburg begun.

President—Like the paper that Judge Anderson read a year ago, it is an ably written and very interesting paper. Of course this one does not record any bloody desperate struggles, such as were depicted by Judge Anderson in his description of the Bloody Angle, and there are frequent references to repulses—that was all true—but we must remember that General Grant's purpose was to hunt the enemy wherever he found him. If it was necessary to move by the left flank in the front of the enemy which theretofore had been considered a very extremely perilous effort, and somewhat against the prescribed methods of conducting a campaign, why, he would do it without hesitation. His purpose was to hunt the enemy wherever he found him, and whip him if he could. Occasionally there might be a setback, but you know what the grand result was of General Grant's method. It is very doubtful whether the dilatory and possibly more scientific methods adopted at the commencement of the war, would ever have succeeded as General Grant's did. It was only under his inspiring genius, his pertinacity, his dogged purpose, that the rebellion was crushed. We would like to hear remarks made by any comrade who participated in this campaign.

Comrade Butterfield—I was quite interested in Judge Anderson's statement of the circumstances under which Comrade Cram was wounded. I was at that time detailed as Division Officer of the Day to establish a picket, and the nearness of the rebels to our line was somewhat interesting. Some of our picket posts were as close as two or three rods apart, and the Johnnies were as willing to get back as we were, and there was no firing. There were little holes dug by our men, and the rebels did the same, and as we fell back in the morning they were willing to do the same thing and we re-established the line in the morning without any firing, and when I was relieved we were probably ten rods apart, but the firing was at very close range when they did fire.

Judge Anderson—I would like very much to have these papers thoroughly discussed, because the pains I have taken were to have the historic matter as close to the absolute truth as I could get it—the places where we were each day—the locations of the regiments, and consequently the location of divisions and corps. I have taken my diary and with the notes that I made at that time in my letters home, compared them with the official reports to see if there was any discrepancy and I have made a special effort to have the historical matter absolutely correct. The incidents, of course, that I might write and that occurred to me were many, but I preferred to sacrifice those things that make what you might call picturesque writing, to the bare facts of where we were and what we were doing in a general way.

Now I think that just about the time that Lieutenant Cram was wounded, the assault in our front had failed, and I remember very distinctly the color bearer of a New York regiment—I don't remember what regiment it was—

Comrade Butterfield—121st.

Judge Anderson—Coming back and planting his colors right down on the right of our little squad, and as his men came back he would call them to the colors, and kept moving his colors out to the right and gathering his men around them and extending his men on that side.

There was another officer that we noticed that was quite conspicuous on the left, gathering in men and forming them to extend our little short line. We seemed to be entirely alone there supporting that whole assault. I know of no troops to our rear, and in fact I do not know that I looked very much to the rear, but the troops, that were coming from the front when the assault had failed and they had failed to carry the line in front, were gathered up and formed on the right and left of our little squad there. I remember turning my head and looking backward and seeing Lieutenant Cram stretched on the ground and one or two of his men raising him up and speaking to him, then I turned my head to attend strictly to business.



Another thing that was very noticeable that night in the charge on Coal Harbor, was the way those Connecticut men acted—I think it was the 1st Connecticut Heavy artillery—they lost their Colonel and a large proportion of their line officers, and nearly half their number; they were terribly mismanaged. There was in front of us and on a spot where our permanent breastworks were built a grove of pines, a thin row extending probably four or five rods, not more than that. Well, he led his regiment through that pine grove and through the undergrowth, and of course they were considerably disordered, but not more than you would expect, and there that officer halted his men and undertook to dress them up when they were certainly not more than three hundred and fifty feet from a rebel regiment—undertook to straighten his line and have them dress, as if they were on parade. The result was that they fell to the right and left as if they were a flock of partridges that had been fired into.

Comrade Pierce—A member from Company "B" from Chicago is here and has some interesting data as to what the Grand Army are doing in Chicago among the poor and destitute soldiers, and I think it would be very interesting to hear from him.

Colonel John E. Rastall—I have been moved profoundly by my contact with my old comrades. It is my first visit to a reunion of this regiment. I was a member of Company "B" in its early history, and when we arrived as a regiment at Baltimore, I was detached and sent to Fort McHenry as a clerk, and I stayed there about three months under General John A. Dix, and one day I was very much surprised to receive orders to go to the Eastern Shore of Maryland with a detachment of the 3d New York Infantry, and assist in the organization of a regiment of union men. We had equipments furnished us for five hundred, commissary stores and quartermaster's stores of all kinds—and I had had some experience before the war, under old John Brown in Kansas, and I was somewhat familiar with military matters in the campaign for a free state there, and knew something of the work of organization and had had some experience in real warfare. General Dix knew that and also knew that my experience in the drill equipped me for the service to which I was assigned. I went over there with this 3d New York detachment into camp on a river called the Choptank, and we went to work enlisting men, and while still a member of Company "B" of the 5th Wisconsin, I organized the 1st Maryland Infantry. General McClellan was asked to discharge me from my old regiment and command, and I was made adjutant of the first regiment organized there, and I served with that regiment three years. I came across this regiment (the 5th) on two or three occasions. I ran into you at Gettysburg. As I was crossing the field to the 6th Corps on the evening of the 2d, you were going towards Little Round Top, or between Round Top and Cemetery Ridge, and I was on horseback, and my regiment was somewhere else. I was carrying some orders, and as I came upon the 6th Corps, of course I was anxious to find the 5th Wisconsin, and I made inquiry as to the brigade. I knew the division by its colors, and then they said, this is Company "B", and I was immediately surrounded by my old friends—they broke ranks, came around me, shook hands, and brother Boynton and a whole lot of comrades surrounded me, and I think it was a wonderful experience—I can never forget it. I hurried off to the right—and then another time I came across the regiment, and occasionally I would meet members of the old 5th.

However, the war is over and I have never met you from that day to this. My life has been spent in the west, in Kansas and in Chicago, and in fact I am commander now of Washington Post in Chicago. We have forty posts in the City of Chicago and Cook County, and I am in close touch with the Grand Army interests of Chicago and Cook County.

I want to tell you something about our work there. There are a great number of indigent comrades, who are old people and cannot work. We have 565 families that we are feeding and caring for, among them 285 widows. Aside from the regular order connected with the posts of these indigent families, are the stranded comrades that come from the home down there and from different places, to blow their pensions; we take care of them and have them sent back; and a large number come from other cities and get stranded and we have to straighten them out and send them home, and we make that a religious duty, no matter in what condition we find the comrade, no matter how much of a bum he has got to be, no matter how low down in the social scale, we feel it our conscientious duty to pick him up and extend to him a comrade's hand, and when he dies we give him a comrade's funeral.







LEAVING CAMP NEAR FALMOUTH, VA., 1863.



They bring them to our place from the hospital in patrol wagons—some of them are Grand Army men and some not—but in any event we try to care for them.

Under what we call the Bogardus State Law providing for the care of indigent comrades, we can do a certain amount for their support. Cook County has appropriated generally about \$100,000 for outdoor relief, and the county commissioners have agreed to give us \$30,000 right out of the treasury and handle it, but we find it better to let the county handle it under a requisition from the post. It would be too expensive for us to administer that fund, so we let the county do it. We pay one-third the expense and take one third the relief fund and apportion it among our people. We give them a very substantial ration and also fuel.

We have an organization among ourselves of men who are able to give time to the work, and a comrade named Busby we have elected chaplain, and he puts his whole time in going among comrades and looking after them and seeing that the work is going forward. We are getting to such an age now that these unfortunate comrades of ours are increasing in number, and they will become more and more of a burden as time goes on. Somebody has got to take care of them. It is against the law in Illinois to put a soldier in the Potter's Field—they won't allow him to be put there—hence they throw them over to the Grand Army and we have to take care of them. I wish to say to you that the work is being cared for very well in Chicago and Cook County, and I believe and hope that it is being done elsewhere.

[Applause.]

The Secretary—I have just received by the carrier a letter from Comrade Colonel Chas. R. Clark, which I will read. It is addressed to the Secretary.

"CEDAR RAPIDS, IA., June 22, 1903.

"My DEAR COMRADE

"A wedding in my family prevents me from being present at the reunion of the grand 5th Wisconsin tomorrow and next day as I had intended and planned. I deeply regret that I can not come. Next to a reunion of the old 6th Maine that of the old 5th Wisconsin is most delightful to me. A reunion of the two regiments would be the grandest thing in the world, but the survivors are too widely separated to make that feasible. None the less they will ever remain associated in camp and field, in march and battle, and their glorious joint achievements will remain a proud heritage for those who come after us. So long as a single survivor of either regiment remains, his heart will throb more quickly as he thinks of his comrades of the other, and of their united achievements at arms.

"People say we are growing old, but I don't believe it. At any rate a reunion makes us all young again while it lasts, and I shall be as young as any of you tomorrow and next day in the thought of your happy meeting, and the associations and memories which carry us back forty years to the day when we were marching together towards the field of Gettysburg, boys in years, but veterans in service and experience. I can still taste the ox-heart cherries which we gathered on the way, and smell the odor of the pails of apple jack which the 5th regaled itself with on the last night's hard march before we reached that historic scene of ensanguined glory. I believe nothing but an odor was left when the pails got back to the 6th Maine, but the 5th did not know that the supply was limited or that would never have happened. Any way 'you all' were happy enough for both regiments after your Homeric cups and it did us good by absorption.

"No reunion of the 6th Maine is ever complete without three cheers for the 5th Wisconsin, and a 'tiger' which was the exclusive trade mark of the twin regiments. I never heard a genuine 'tiger' from other throats.

"I send heartiest fraternal greetings to all who meet with you. Long life and happiness to the survivors of the glorious 5th.

"Ever, your friend and comrade,

"CHAS. R. CLARK."

[Long continued applause.]

Comrade Anderson followed by reading a paper entitled "The First Prisoner". contributed by Comrade Julius Enert;

### THE FIRST PRISONER.

In looking back to the early days and months of our soldier lives, there was much that took place which afterwards proved of immense value to us when the clash of arms in battle finally came. The daily drill, the guard mount, the picket





duty, the sham battle, the target practice, etc., were all necessary in preparing us for the sterner work that followed. Many of us thought that the daily routine was carried to excess, that we wanted more actual work of fighting rather than playing soldier. I believe that before the three years had expired we had all the fighting that we wanted. But the preparatory work made the regiment what it afterward proved to be, steadfast and true to whatever duty it was assigned. The company, regimental, and brigade officers had drilled confidence and reliance into the men. When ordered to attack a stronghold of the enemy, they had confidence in their ability to capture it, and they did capture it. When placed on the defence, they held their line without wavering or faltering in the least.

There were many daring little expeditions performed by the different companies or parts of companies of the regiment that are necessary and form an important part in its history. The purpose of this sketch is to describe one of these expeditions, in which twenty-five officers and men of Company "A" took part.

The onward march up the Peninsula from Hampton was well under way. We had advanced to the neighborhood of the Yorktown defences that stretched across from the York to the James Rivers. Company "A" was out on picket duty with Captain Clark as officer of the day. The picket line was stationed about three hundred yards from a large plantation house, about which were standing the usual number of small buildings for the "niggers," meat and milk houses, etc. During the early part of the evening the pickets noticed that lights were being moved from room to room. It looked as if there were quite a number of people in the house. The attention of Captain Clark, the officer in charge of the picket line, was called to it. The enemy's picket line was less than two hundred yards back of the house, and Captain Clark thought that some of the Confederate officers were making the house their lodging place for the night, and to capture them would be a very creditable performance. He reported the facts at headquarters and asked permission to take some of his company, surround the house and capture the inmates if they proved to be of the enemy. He obtained permission, but as the expedition was a daring one he was instructed to use great caution in its execution. The pickets were relieved at midnight, and Captain Clark selected twenty-five officers and men of his company as they came in from duty. The night was very dark and the road through the woods, the road to be followed, was little used; this made it difficult to follow in the darkness. In order to reach the clearing where the house stood, we had to cross a small stream of water, over which two or three logs were placed as a bridge. In crossing one or two men slipped and fell into the water. The noise aroused the dogs about the house and they began barking, giving the alarm. Up to this time we had proceeded very cautiously and without making any noise or being discovered. The alarm having been made Captain Clark gave the order to double quick to surround the house. It required but a few minutes to accomplish this. The enemy's pickets, a short distance away, were running about, and we could hear their officers ordering out the reserves, and preparing for what they supposed was to be a night attack. I happened to be just opposite the front door of the house, with, if I remember right, Julius Jackson by my side. We were ordered to fix bayonets and go with the Captain, and gain admittance to the house. The people refused to open the door, telling us at the same time that they were alone. Two hard raps with the butt end of my musket forced the door and we were face to face with two old people on their knees, begging us not to kill them. They were assured that they would not be molested. A thorough search of the rooms proved the truth of the assertion that no one but the family was in the house. In one of the chambers up stairs there was a young lady in bed. She was so terribly frightened that she was unable to speak. We immediately retired from her room, telling her that no one would molest her or enter her room again. In another room there was a young man, perhaps eighteen years old. He was a little lame, caused by a wound which Captain Clark thought might have been received while in the Confederate army. He was made a prisoner and taken back to camp and turned over to General Hancock. This young man was the first prisoner captured by any one in the regiment. He did not prove to be a very valuable one, and was allowed to return home after a few hours. While the search was being made through the house some of the boys discovered the meat house, which proved to be well filled with hams and bacon, and nearly all of it was captured, and the chicken house was also raided, and every man in the expedition, with the exception of the officers and the writer hereof, was well supplied with something good to eat. On our way back to



camp we passed a small flock of sheep, one of which was induced to come along at the point of a bayonet. Without the knowledge of the officers two of the boys just happened to get a little tired and dropped out of the ranks for a little rest; one of the sheep also got tired, and so the boys carried it into camp.

Although this expedition did not pan out as well as expected, the meat rations obtained were just in the nick of time. The usual rain storm had prevented the commissary department keeping their wagons up to the line of march. A few hard tack was all that was left in the haversacks. The meat ration supplied a want very much needed by the company.

To the very great surprise of the men of Company "A," Captain Clark left us that morning, he having been appointed an officer on the staff of a general in a Western army.

Secretary—If I may be pardoned for being a little personal, I am inclined to present some correspondence that I have had in connection with the battle of Antietam, or an incident or two in the battle of Antietam, and in doing so I hope if there is any comrade present that joined me in the expedition, he will let me know who he is. I cannot recall any of the three that went with me at the time. I refer to the expedition to bring in Captain Hunt from the enemy's lines, after he had been wounded. The correspondence explains itself:

"CHICAGO, ILLS., December 30, 1899.

"CAPTAIN CHAS. J. HUNT,  
"150 Lincoln Avenue,  
"Detroit, Mich.

"My Dear Sir and Comrade—Your kind favor of October 20 is duly at hand. I thank you sincerely for your kindly interest in me, and the matter under consideration.

"I have no object in view in getting information from you excepting to establish the fact, that as a soldier carrying a gun, I tried to do as well as I could to serve my country in that capacity. After getting an endorsement from you upon this, it is my intention to refer the matter to General Amasa Cobb, who was Colonel of the regiment to which I belonged (the 5th Wisconsin,) and possibly to Generals Franklin and Smith, who commanded the 6th Corps and 1st Division respectively.

"On September 17 the corps came from Crampton's Pass to the right wing of the Army of the Potomac, arriving at about 10 o'clock, and as I understand it, took the place of those who had been engaged in the corn field to the north of Dunker Church, the same being the command to which you belonged.

"On the night of the 17th, I was on the picket line during the entire night, and when daylight was approaching, our pickets by agreement with each other, stuck our bayonets in the ground with the broad side of the butts of our rifles to the enemy, and each picket stood beside his gun and waited for the coming of daylight, the object being to let the Confederate pickets see that we did not care to continue the picket firing, that had been almost continuous on the 17th, after we had taken our position there. The Confederates were of the same mind, evidently, and did not fire upon us, and the day passed without a shot being fired by pickets on our front.

"Early on the morning of the 18th, a Confederate officer came up to the fence on his side of the Hagerstown road, along which his pickets were stationed, and called out to our pickets, (who I judge were about fifty feet west of the fence on our side of the road), 'There is an officer of yours out here who is badly wounded, and if four of you care to come over without arms and take him, you may do so.' I looked around for one of the officers of our picket, but could see none, so I proposed to my comrades near me that four of us go over and get the wounded officer, and three offered to go with me. We climbed the two fences lining the Hagerstown road, and started down the incline to where you lay; you were lying within about forty feet of an old road or ledge of rocks, where their line of battle was protected by said road or ledge up to their breasts or shoulders as they stood in line.

"As soon as I looked down to where you lay with your head up hill and resting on your left elbow, I recognized you, and told my companions that I knew you. There were no other wounded men in sight, and the dead, if there had been any, had all been removed. When I got to you, I made myself known to you and you remembered me, I think, and said 'For God's sake, Engle, get me out of this,' and I said to the comrades with me, 'Take hold of him, boys, and we will take him over.' You replied, 'O no; I cannot be moved without a stretcher; I have lain here





Since 11 o'clock yesterday with a broken thigh, and I would rather lie here and die than be moved without a stretcher.' I said, 'Charley, there is no use of talking about a stretcher a day like this,' and you said 'Then I will stay here.' It then occurred to me that I had a rubber blanket folded over my body belt and hanging at my back; so I asked the boys to go up and see if they could get a couple of rails and we would improvise a stretcher of them and my rubber blanket, which was one with brass eyelets set around the edge of it. We succeeded in making a stretcher on which we carried you off.

"As soon as we got down where you lay, quite a crowd of Confederate soldiers came up to where we were, and scolded and swore because we were there and could see their position, etc., and an officer came down from off the timber-covered ridge and said 'General——,' (I cannot now recall whom he named) 'wishes to know what you are doing here and how you came to be here;' I told him that one of their officers had told us we could come over and get this wounded officer, and we had come, and were going to take him within our lines.' He desired to know who the officer was and I told him that 'I did not know.' He then asked his rank and where he was. I looked around and saw the officer walking north along his picket line, but it occurred to me not to point the officer out as it might make him trouble, so I said, 'I do not know his rank, as I am not posted on the meaning of their gold braid, etc., nor did I know who he was or where he had gone.' The officer then rode back up the hill, and soon came back and told us, 'General—— says you may take your officer, but that if you return on any pretense whatever again, he will hold you as prisoners of war.' I told him that we would not return this side of the fences unless we were ordered by our officers.

"While all the foregoing was passing I made as thorough an examination as I could from where you lay, of the ground, the position of the Confederate line and batteries, and when we got you back inside our picket lines, and to the line of battle, as good luck would have it, a couple of stretcher bearers came along with an empty stretcher and we put you on it and sent you off to the field hospital with our blessing. I think that before you had gone, you and I talked a little about the position of the Confederates, and after you had gone I went to Colonel Cobb, my regimental commander, then in command of Hancock's brigade, to which we belonged, (General Hancock having gone to replace General Richardson, who had been killed). Colonel Cobb sent me back to General Franklin with his compliments, to repeat what I had seen. I went back and found Generals Franklin and Smith still lying where they had slept on their blankets in an open field a little way in rear of our lines.

"After delivering my message to General Franklin, and after I had begun to make a tale of what I had seen, he stopped me, and with his hand smoothed a place in the dirt, and with his finger drew two lines in the earth representing the two fences at either side of the Hagerstown road, and said, 'There are the fences; now get down here and mark off the positions as you saw them, taking the fences as a base.' This I did as well as I could. General Franklin asked me my name and regiment, and told me to return his compliments to Colonel Cobb, and ask him to report anything more that he might discover along his line. General Franklin also asked me if I thought we could make a successful charge, and I told him I believed the 6th Corps had never failed, or something to that effect, and then returned to my colonel, and to my place on the picket line.

"I was not anxious to go back over those fences, but I think now that we should have done so, and I have reason to think General Franklin thought so then.

"Yours truly,

(Signed)

"GEO. B. ENGLE, JR."

Captain Hunt replied as follows:

"DETROIT, MICH., January 27, 1900.

"MR. GEO. B. ENGLE, JR.,

"188 Madison Street, Chicago, Ill.

"My Dear Sir and Comrade—Yours of December 30th was duly received, and should have been answered earlier had I not been very busy in court of late.

"I gladly make the statement that you require. I remember all the circumstances of your coming down the field to me. At first you asked me if there was an officer of the 7th Wisconsin there. I replied that there was none. Then you said, 'I know you; your name is Hunt, and you are from Port Huron.' I answered 'Yes.' Then you said, 'I am the son of the Rev. George B. Engle, who



"I am convinced that the statement is correct from its details and straightforwardness.

(Signed)

"W. F. SMITH,  
"Late Major General U. S. V.  
"Commanding Smith's Division."

The following letter accompanied the return of the papers and General Smith's endorsement:

1013 CLINTON STREET, PHILADELPHIA, April 26, 1902.

"Dear Engle:

"I have received the interesting papers forwarded by you. I am sorry to say that I cannot help you much with my memory as to your bringing in Captain Hunt from the enemy's line. General Franklin and myself did sleep side by side on the ground on the night of the 18th.

"Your description of the ground where you found the Captain is very correct. I mounted my horse at daylight and rode through our picket lines into the bed of the little creek, which was as you described, a natural breastwork, where on the rocks we found some of our wounded and dead—among them a Captain from Brooklyn who died while we were there. I examined the place critically, for the day before I had asked General McClellan to allow me to take a hill which I pointed out to him. On arriving at the creek I found the hill which I wished to occupy looked into the rear of this story place as I had suspected, and we would have driven the enemy out of it on the afternoon of the 17th, had I been allowed to move as I desired. Your statement is corroborated by the slight aids I have given you, and I believe your account entirely. I am sorry I cannot help you better.

"I am always delighted to hear anything of or from the 5th Wisconsin, but am past traveling so far to meet them. May the laurels they won in the war be perpetuated in a regimental monument, which the State ought to raise over its noblest and best.

"Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

"W. F. SMITH."

Comrade Pierce—The question was asked of me this noon if I knew anything of Bill Wright, our old color bearer when we started out on that campaign. I do know what became of him. He was wounded at the battle of Spottsylvania Court House and taken prisoner. I was also wounded and taken prisoner at the same place. We were both taken to a field hospital, and after having been there a few days the Confederate sergeant who had charge of us asked me what the name was of the color bearer of the 5th Wisconsin. I said, "Bill Wright;" then he said, "Do you know anything about him?" I replied, "No, I do not;" and he said, "He is in a tent only two or three rods from you, and in very bad condition." I immediately got up and hobbled over to his tent and found him. His left leg had been amputated above the knee; blood poisoning had already set in, and his leg was about the size of my body, and he lived only two or three days afterwards, and died in the field hospital. The first question he asked me was: "What became of the colors? did the Johnnies get them?" and I said, "No, sir, they did not; they were taken care of and carried all right;" and he said, "Good, I would hate to see those fellows get those colors."

Comrade Butterfield—I was glad to hear the statement from Comrade Pierce in regard to Comrade Wright. He was a member of our company and color bearer at the time that he says, and he has a brother living at Waukesha that would be very glad to hear something about him after he let the colors fall. That is as far as I knew of him, after the colors fell, until I received notice from the hospital of his death at the time—I got a notice from the department; and now I can tell his people what I have heard today, and it will be very interesting to them I know.

Comrade DeClark—Comrade Engle speaks of wanting to know who was with him on that expedition to the rebel lines, and that puts me in mind of a little camp incident, and I have often wondered who was with me at the time. It was brought very vividly to my mind by a story, if I may so call it, in McClure's Magazine a year or so ago, about the purported plot to kidnap Lincoln and carry him South, and I often have wondered whether there was any truth in it. While I was at Camp Advance our pickets often occupied the corners there, and I remember being on picket there with three other men, from other companies, and one was a sergeant on the post while we were posted there. Towards evening there rushed up what we called a hack, from Washington, driving very rapidly toward our post, and it





was at the corners that the sergeant halted the driver, and I do not know what conversation took place, but they were halted there some time, and finally the sergeant permitted the driver and occupants to proceed down South into Dixie. The hack had been gone but a few minutes when I think one of General Hancock's staff came galloping down and commenced making a great fuss over our allowing that carriage to pass, and I know nothing further about it, and the story amounts to nothing unless Lincoln was induced to get into that carriage and had been carried beyond the lines, and for some reason allowed to return. I often have wondered whether there was anything to that story, or whether it ever had been reported to headquarters.

Secretary—I would like to hear something from Captain Hall. He has come from Minnesota and can doubtless give us some interesting information.

Comrade Hall—I do not know that I can say anything that will interest you. I have felt that it was rather my place, if not the place of all members of new companies, to sit still and listen and learn. But I will say this much, that I feel that it has been one of the greatest honors of my life, and something of which I am proud, that it was my privilege to belong to the 5th Wisconsin, and if I could say anything to add to the interest of this occasion I should be glad to do so; but I specially wish to say this, that we feel as members of the new regiment, under great obligations to the members of the old regiment for the courtesy with which they treated us. I am well aware that they must have looked upon us as exceedingly fresh and green, and unfit to take the first positions. It could not have been otherwise. We felt so ourselves, and I do not doubt as officers, that Captain Nevitt and myself especially felt this, for we were compelled to step to the front and take charge of men who had been in the service for three years, while we felt ourselves utterly green and unfitted for the place, and I do not blame any of the old boys and officers if they felt towards us as though we were assuming a great deal and occupying positions that hardly belonged to us.

There are some circumstances connected with my service that I well remember. I remember generally the courtesy with which we were treated, and for it I have been grateful towards the old men for the kindness that they showed us. But one thing caused me pain at the time I was in the service, and that is that we were so unfitted for the service. I felt that we were at a disadvantage. This disadvantage manifested itself to me in a number of ways. It was not that we could not go through the drill so readily; we certainly were awkward at these things, and were awkward when we attempted the manual of arms, and the wheelings, and were awkward in giving our orders, and sometimes laughable stories were told of the new officers who had come into the service.

We had one command that was given sometimes when two ranks were to form one rank, double quick, march; well that was changed by some of the old officers for our benefit to this form, "Two ranks make one rank, right smart, git."

(Laughter and applause)

Another thing that seemed painful to me was the inability of the new men to compete with the old men in endurance. The new men were terribly homesick at first, and when a man is homesick he is unfitted to endure the hardships of the service; he is more likely to become really sick; they had a saying that more depended on a man's pluck than anything else; some men would easily succumb to diseases. As soon as they were sick they imagined that they were going to die, and would grow worse, and in the end perhaps would die, purely from want of pluck, as it was said. Others who were determined that they would endure and were of a happy disposition, would soon recover. I was compelled to admit that there was something in this. I knew men were homesick and were not accustomed to the hardships of the army, and many of them had expected different fare; many had gone to the army, mere boys, thinking they were going to a picnic, supposing they were going to have a good time; and I remember that I incurred the enmity of some of my men at the beginning of the service by telling them that a soldier wanted to be as tough as a dog; that he wanted to be capable of lying in a blanket and in the mud, and eating anything, and capable of enduring as much as a dog. They were not expecting this, and some of them said afterwards that I told the truth; that they were treated like dogs, and must endure like dogs. It is a fact that we were sometimes obliged to endure hardships. It was not so much of a determination of who could shoot best, or the Johnnies, or who could put on the most style or keep our boots the cleanest, as it was who would show the most endurance, who could stand



leeping on the ground the best and go without regular meals, and endure the hard are that we had to, and who could march the furthest. The last struggle between Grant and Lee was determined by our ability to keep the road hour after hour. We often slept while actually marching. I have often heard our cavalrymen saying that they slept well on horseback and were so accustomed so to do, and I believe that some of the infantrymen even could sleep on the march; and it was absolutely necessary for a man to sleep in mud or on frozen ground quite frequently. The men were not at first accustomed to these things, they were discouraged and sick, and the example of the three companies of old men gave us great encouragement, and I remember wishing that my men had the strength and the endurance that these old comrades had. When half my men would be on the sick list I would be somewhat envious of the old companies of veterans with scarcely a man in the hospital, and I wished we had the hardiness and endurance of the old soldiers. Notwithstanding the courtesy the old soldiers extended towards us I remember sometimes they perpetrated some tricks at our expense. One of my men said to me that some of the men relieved us of about half our knapsacks the first time we came in contact with them. (Applause.) And many of the little things that our men brought with them they were sorry to part with, but it was just as well that they were relieved of them, and did not have to lug them over the hard roads and through the mud during the coming days.

I remember a thing that took place, showing the manner in which the old soldiers got advantage of us. Once when Grant was extending his lines to the left at what was known among us as the battle of Hacher's Run, I think sometime in February, we were acting as support of the 5th Corps. The 5th Corps was doing the fighting at the front and we were there to support them if it was impossible for them to keep their places; but as they held their places very well we did not have much fighting to do. But some of the 5th Corps were drifting back through our lines, and I distinctly remember one of them, who, when the troops in front of us were ordered out into the brush, came back onto our lines saying he had lost his regiment and wanted to get back. Some of our men told him his regiment was at the front. No, he said, they had gone back that way. He was evidently terrorized and did not know which way they had gone, and we were ordered about that time through the lines and pushed to the front while the 5th Corps retired. It seemed to be quite a dangerous place. We understood that the rebel line was only a few rods in front of us. It was raining at the time, and we felt as though we would like to reach cover; we saw in front of us about twenty feet away, a picket breastwork over four feet high and twenty feet long, which would just cover the company nicely, and while we were marching towards it in close order and thinking we would soon reach shelter from the bullets, Company "A", upon our right, suddenly made a left oblique and dropped right behind the breastworks. (Laughter.) It so happened that the Johnnies did not open fire and we did not suffer much, and we could not blame Company "A" for the trick they put upon us.

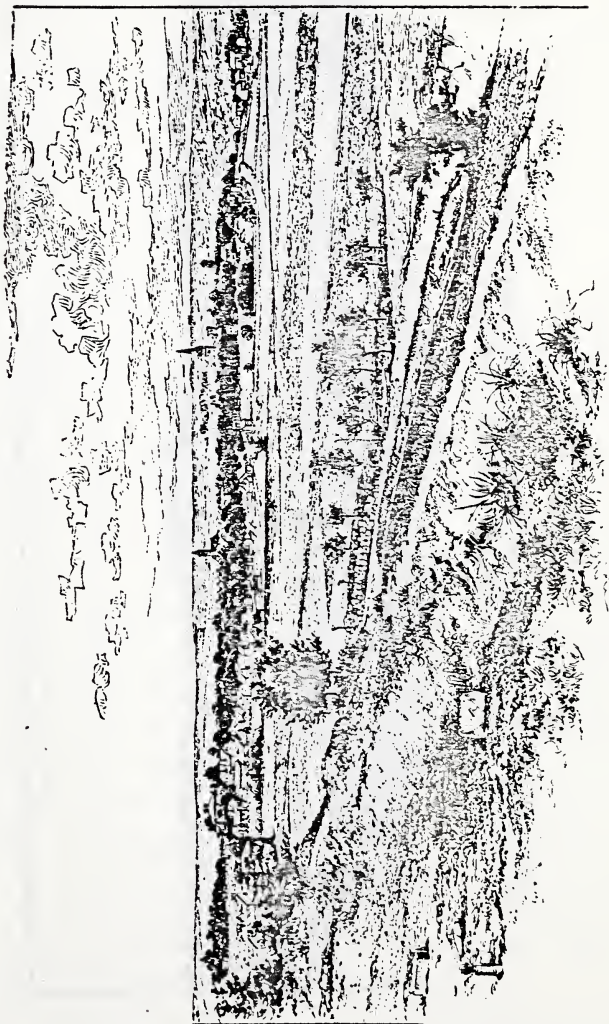
We were not in those battles so often spoken of in which the old 5th regiment obtained so much honor, in which it performed its duty without doubt well. The second lieutenant of my company was with the members of the old regiment during its campaigns, and I heard him even give account of battles in which most of you took a part, and especially of the fight at Maryes Heights, and I went over the ground where you made that charge, and the place where the regiment lay in front of the heights about fifty yards away, and where you were formed for the charge, and where you lay in waiting, and I passed along the wall that you went over and mounted the heights beyond. This was at the close of the war on our return, when we stopped in at Richmond. Lieutenant Winwood, who was formerly a citizen of Milwaukee, gave me an account of the fight as he saw it, and of the manner in which the 5th Wisconsin and the 6th Maine formed in front, ran across the open field and climbed the wall. He said that while you were running that sixty yards you were exposed to the fire of a double line of battle arranged behind a stone wall, and that the regiment did not stop to fire a shot. When you reached the wall he said the Johnnies, having emptied their guns, threw them down and cried out, "We surrender," but that the 6th Maine fired right into them. He did not say what the 5th Wisconsin did.

We took part in the charge behind the works in front of, or to the west of Petersburg, west of the Weldon Railroad, on the 2d of April, and there were many men killed and wounded in the new regiment. There was one little incident that



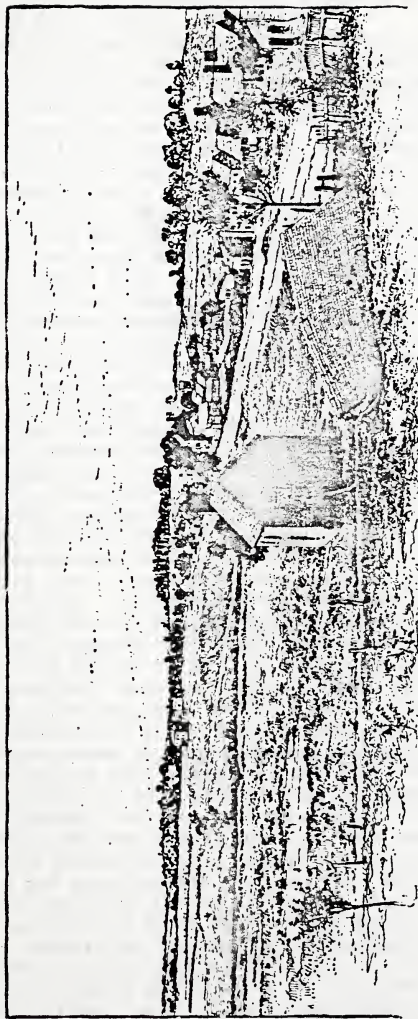






FREDERICKSBURG, VA., FROM WILLIS HILL.





VIEW OF FIELD IN FRONT OF MARYES HILL  
OVER WHICH CHARGE WAS MADE MAY 3, 1863. TELEGRAPH ROAD ON RIGHT.





I remember that was really laughable, and perhaps some here remember it as well as I. We came over the ground a little while before daylight; it was to the left of where we were encamped, and we were ordered to lie down. As we took our position, our picket line opened fire upon the enemy's picket line; the enemy's picket line was driven back. The firing between the picket lines was very sharp. We lay upon the ground during this contest, and the bullets were whistling about our heads. Finally we could hear a ball strike. It had hit somebody we were perfectly sure. It was heard by a great many of our regiment. Immediately in about half a minute we heard a man swearing, and he swore as though he was terribly mad. It was a lieutenant of one of our new companies, and it seems that the man was objecting, not so much to being shot as to the place where he was shot. We were all lying on our faces. (Laughter.)

Captain Doty, who was in command of Company "A," who was standing while we were waiting for a signal for a charge in the morning, passed along in front of his company and in front of mine, and was cracking jokes and laughing and talking to the men as coolly as though he was going to a picnic. I remember that his bearing was such as to give us confidence; for we new men, and having heard from the old men stories of the great losses endured in charging the enemy's works, felt that it was rather a serious matter to charge those breastworks in our front, but Captain Doty seemed to think it was only a pleasant matter, and apparently cared nothing about it; but as we started into the charge, Captain Doty, as brave a man as ever belonged to the old 5th, or the new either, was shot dead through the head; and I wish to bear testimony to his bravery and readiness. It seemed hard to me, that he who had been a hero of more than thirty battles, should fall that way, while we new officers were spared. (Applause.)

Secretary—I think we would like to hear from Captain Nevitt. Captain Nevitt, like the captain who has just spoken, was one of the new captains.

Captain Nevitt—We had our companies in Madison, where General Allen put in an appearance, bandaged and seared with wounds, but he talked to us and said he desired more men than he might command a regiment, and our men were brought out in line, and those that desired, after hearing the general talk, to go to the front, were to step three paces to the front; not a man remained behind. So we started out with confidence that we were going with a man, and to old companies that knew what fighting was, that they would be able to take care of us, to educate us, to enable us possibly to earn the glory that had already crowned their heads. First we were put on board cars and left Madison early in September, 1864, and the first stop of any consequence to our minds was at Baltimore. We were marched through the streets and in front of a large brick building, and told that those were our quarters for the night. I remember that my orderly, Comrade Harshaw, brother of Henry Harshaw, who was so long State Treasurer, inspected the rooms upstairs, and came down and reported that those rooms were not fit for clean men like us to lie in; that they were full of vermin. I hardly knew how to command, but I suggested that the company form on the walk, stack their guns, and that guards be put at either end of the company, and that we lie down there. It was done. Our pouches and blankets were in use, but I assure you that the few hours I lay there that night were not passed in very pleasant slumbers. Next morning we got our rations and boarded the cars again, and reached Washington, and for a few days stayed in booths where we were able to clean up, but we were soon ordered out of that. It was reported that some guerilla, possibly Mosby, was out in the fence corners somewhere, and we three companies were sent out to see if we could not entice him into the American lines. Those three companies were in command of a captain who had had experience in the cavalry. He was the ranking captain at the time, and we were led out in the country in the edge of the evening, and traveled some several miles and laid down in the fence corners of a field waiting for this noted guerilla to come to us; but shortly a detachment of horsemen were stopped by us and they were scrutinized very closely as to who they were and what was their business; but it soon developed that they were simply some of our cavalry scouts, and that is as near as we got to getting Mosby.

We were sent up in the valley soon by railroad, and there in the valley we had quite an experience in looking after guerillas and guarding trains, for something over a month, and some of my men were sick and in the hospital, and I felt a desire to see them and see how they were getting on, and while there in the hospital General Sheridan came in and talked and spoke to me, and I felt greatly honored, and



that was the only time in my life that I got near enough to General Sheridan to talk with him.

After having performed this duty of train guards and occasional looking after the guerillas, we were taken down to City Point, and we went by cars to Washington and from Washington to the Point, or below Washington, on the steamboat, and nothing very exciting happened to us until we were marched out on Grant's line of railroad and went into camp. We changed our camp once or twice, and we were constantly under some exercise or other to be educated, and the old boys and the old captains were willing and ready and cheerfully advised us and told us what was best to do. I remember the first move of any importance was on the 6th, 7th, 8th and part of the 9th of February, 1864, and that was when the move known as Grant's extension of his left occurred at Hatchar's Run. We were ordered out in a great hurry, and several of the men dropped out. One of them was so heated that he died. He did not belong to our company, however. We reached the scene of action, and the first day we were in support of a part of Crawford's brigade. The enemy threw shell and shot at us, and we were ordered to lie down, and while lying down, our brigade commander, a tall, fine looking man, who was reported to us as having been a circus clown at home, (he was from Maine, and a splendid appearing fellow,) with his staff went a short distance in front of us looking at us evidently to see what we were good for, or how well we appeared, when a solid shot came right over the back of his horse within a foot or may be less, of the man's back. They did not hurry off, but moved away slowly, not remaining, however, to continue the inspection. [Laughter.] That night we were ordered out on what was known as a midnight charge. It was very dark, in thick woods, and as we advanced there was no light that we could see upon any side, but finally a little glimmering appeared in several places, and a challenge came as we advanced, "What troops are those?" "The 5th Wisconsin." "Fire!" And the rebels gave us a discharge from their picket line and from a post or two. They killed one or two of our men; an old sergeant got a ball through his throat, and was reported to me by one of my own sergeants. We advanced until we got to where they had their fires, and where they threw down their guns, and I remember that I was short in my ordnance account, and I picked up a couple of those fine Austrians and kept them until I was able to turn them in. [Applause.]

Comrade Howie took the chair.

General Thomas S. Allen, of Oshkosh, then entered the room, and was greeted with applause.

Chairman—Comrades, Comrade Powrie will tell you of the entertainment he is going to give you here this evening.

Comrade Powrie—I would say that quite a number of years ago I came into possession of a large number of very valuable pictures taken during the war, by the Bradys, under the authority of the government. They are fitted for the stereopticon, and by the courtesy of the E. B. Wolcott Post we are permitted to use their instrument in the room adjoining, and to place these views before you. I doubt not many will seem familiar to you, bringing up old scenes once known to all of you, and I would be glad to have you all present and bring your friends.

Captain Bean—I have sometimes thought that Colonel Miles Butterfield, than whom no soldier that I know of has retained more accurate data of the campaigns of the Army of the Potomac, should write a sketch which might properly be entitled how company "F" of the 5th Wisconsin came near missing the battle of Antietam. (Laughter.) The facts, if you will permit me to recall them very briefly, are these: We were marching along through Maryland, and we could hear the distant booming of guns as we approached the mountains. At that time we did not know what they meant. I presume that the general officers did, but it afterwards transpired that the guns were fired at Harpers Ferry, and were intended as a signal to the approaching Army of the Potomac, of the peril that the few Union troops stationed at that point were then in. A battle was fought, quite a respectable one, called the battle of Crampton's Gap. The enemy were dislodged upon the mountains. In the evening and the next morning we found ourselves in a beautiful valley known as Pleasant Valley, and encamped there, and on that morning, it must have been the 15th or 16th of September, I was directed to take my company quite a long distance down the valley, and remain there as pickets or skirmishers, just exactly what for I did not know. I got down there and found that other companies had been sent from other regiments, so that I think there were six companies in all,







enough of a line at least to span the entire valley. You who were with me those two nights will remember that there was great activity during the whole of the night. We could hear the firing at Harper's Ferry, not severe, but occasional volleys, and the videttes whom we had posted out were very active and occupied continuously. Men were running in frequently, and I distinctly remember that an officer in the uniform of a captain came rushing in almost exhausted, and he said, "For Heaven's sake, tell me where I am; am I among Union troops?" I assured him that he was. He then disclosed the fact that he was a captain of a New York regiment; that Stonewall Jackson had captured Harper's Ferry, and that Colonel Miles and General Julius White, in command, were prisoners. That quite a number of those in the fort had escaped, and this officer among others. We remained there that night and took in several refugees in that way. The next morning a good deal to our surprise we were not called in. It must have been the 15th of September when we were there, and we were not called in. We remained there, of course, for the reason that we had not been recalled, all that day, and all that night our haversacks were uncomfortably thin. There were a few wretched houses about, I remember, and I made a skirmish the last morning to get something to eat, and I recall it as one of the most extraordinary breakfasts that I ever enjoyed; but as has been intimated here before, we carried with us then appetites which, alas, we do not carry with us now. The breakfast which I allude to consisted of some sour pears and goat's milk. It was better than nothing, however, and we still waited. Looking away back 2½ miles we could see a movement of the army, and still we were not called in, and we stayed there hardly knowing what to do, and my recollection is (though we must not be too certain about affairs that occurred so long ago), that we finally moved without any orders whatever. The army had gone and we did not propose to be left, so we gathered ourselves together and trailed along after them, and did not arrive upon the field of Antietam until about high noon of that day.

In this connection I recall a fact which has always puzzled me with regard to the qualifications of the officer in command of that army at that time. When we were going on to the field, we marched right through the 5th corps, the regular army contingent of the Army of the Potomac. They were unconcerned; apparently they were drilling. I remember seeing some of the men going through the manual of arms, and some companies in regimental drill. We went on to the field, and it is a matter of history that the battle of Antietam being fought on the 17th of September, the 5th army corps did not fire a gun. During that night Couch's Division, a strong, fresh division, came up, and it naturally was the expectation of every soldier with any intelligence whatever, that on the morning of the 18th we would assault the enemy, his position being an exceedingly precarious one, violating, as I understand it, all rules of military tactics. He had a river, the Potomac, in his rear. There had been a desperate battle fought the battle of Antietam, and perhaps it might be called a drawn battle (neither army moved from its position), but to our great surprise, and I am sure to the surprise of every intelligent soldier, as I say, we did not move at all on the 18th day of September, notwithstanding the fact the entire 5th army corps, the pet army corps of the Army of the Potomac, and notwithstanding the fact that Couch's fresh division, a large division under a very competent officer, were ready to go into the field, we did nothing. It was on this day that our Comrade Engle has told you about his visit across to the other side, and Captain Walker of Company A told me he went over and had a little interview with some of the rebel officers. So on the 18th day of September I know that I was on the picket line, and could hear very distinctly the rumbling of wagons and movements indicating that something was going on on the other side. Of course General McClellan must have known on the night the of 18th that the Army under General Lee, the Army of Northern Virginia, was on the move. Still the Army of the Potomac made no move. On the following morning, the 19th of September, at about 9 or 10 o'clock in the morning, we very leisurely marched down to the river. The enemy had gone. General McClellan then bethought himself and sent a new brigade which had recently come upon the field, (sent by the ever-patriotic city of Philadelphia,) across the river, of course only to be almost annihilated.

It is not a gracious thing, comrades, to talk about the qualities of a commander, a man who has been in the command of a great army, and I certainly have no disposition to say any unkind word regarding General McClellan, but I have a conviction so strong, so deeply rooted, that he was far and away below the level of com-



petency for such an exalted position, that I do not hesitate, coupling it with the assurance that I speak in no anger or contentious spirit at all, to say that I believe if that glorious Army of the Potomac had from the start been under the command of a competent man, a great man, (and it must be a great man, because we must all bear in mind that it is no reflection upon General McCellan and no reflection upon any individual, that he is not competent to command successfully 100,000 men,) the result of that campaign would have been different. Men of caliber sufficient to successfully command a great army, such as ours was, are the geniuses. A man may be great in all the ordinary avenues of life, and still fall far below that high standard of greatness that calls for ability sufficient to successfully command 100,000 soldiers. We passed through long years of war before we found, as finally we did, such a man, and when we did the war soon ended.

[Applause.]

Secretary—The 6th army corps did not take any part in the battle of Antietam anyway.

Captain Bean—You were on the field.

Secretary—The corps did not do much of any fighting.

Comrade Stevens—Before we went down the hill and forded that narrow river, before we came on the battle field, we were drawn up in line of battle on a high ridge, and General Hancock rode in front of the brigade and said, "My brave men, if you win this battle it is the last battle of the war." It showed what officers thought of the situation.

Secretary—As you all know, the expense of stenographer's services and getting our reports printed is quite considerable, and the total expense of getting them out last year amounted to something over \$200, and the question that confronts us now is, how are we now going to raise the money to publish the report of this meeting. I feel that I am somewhat in an awkward position in bringing the matter up, and I did not expect that I would be called upon to do it; but I think that it belongs to the comrades of the Association to take the initiative in this matter. I have necessarily to do a good deal of what might be called pounding in one way or another, in order to finally bring the thing out. Last year we passed a resolution requesting every member to subscribe \$1.50. If every member of our association would give \$1.00 we would have funds enough. There was a good response last year—of course not anything like a majority response,—and I will leave it to you to say how we shall arrive at it now. It is a matter of getting funds enough to continue our history. I do think that we certainly ought to get this year's report in print. Without taking any glory, I do take some satisfaction in the matter. I think that the 5th Wisconsin can safely say that they have got the best prepared history of any regiment that I know of in all the Union armies. I have seen a great many regimental histories, giving dates and all that, which are excellent. The 49th Pennsylvania has a very large book giving the location of their regiment every day. That applies very well to a large part of the history of this regiment, so far as dates and locations are concerned, but we have gone into it in a little different way, in having these papers and addresses and giving incidents, and I think that a man that has any idea of military matters at all can take our reports and get a pretty good bird's-eye view of the fighting line, and I do not think that in carrying out our duty to ourselves we can afford to omit publishing this report, anyway.

Captain Bean—The entire expense is that of preparing this report and postage. Our comrade, George B. Engle, really does a great deal of work in this matter without a dollar of compensation. All that is required is money enough to prepare the annual report, and as he says, it is getting to be quite an interesting document. It is recognized by other regiments; it is filed in the large libraries of the country, and the practical question is whether we shall continue the publication of these pamolets or discontinue them.

Comrade Smith—I think the best way is to start a list, and I will put down my name for \$5.00.

(List was then circulated.)

Captain Bean—The name of General William F. Smith has been mentioned several times, and possibly all of the comrades have been apprised of the fact that General Smith died a few months ago. It is hardly necessary for me to say anything about General Smith. At the beginning of the war he commanded the 1st Division, 6th Army Corps; he was an officer of most exceptional ability, and it has often been remarked that it was unfortunate for the Army of the Potomac, if not for other armies,







that he was not in supreme command of it. I think I mentioned a year ago that I had the pleasure of calling upon him in Philadelphia. I found him in a pleasant home, his daughter living with him, in the enjoyment of a green old age, well, and delighted to see a member of his old command; and I move, Mr. President, that the Secretary be instructed to convey the sympathies and condolence of this society to the member of General Smith's family who is still living, and I may say for his information that he can ascertain the address by communicating with Judge J. D. Campbell, formerly of the 49th Pennsylvania.

Unanimously carried.

Chairman Howie—I have not neglected to call on General Allen, but his voice is very weak, and he does not care to say anything, except to extend to you his greetings.

Comrade J. F. Ellis, Company "K"—There are one or two matters of history that concern the 5th Wisconsin that I call to mind. A year or two ago I saw in Chicago a letter written by William E. Curtis in reference to the battle of Cedar Creek. I think the old 5th Wisconsin took part in that engagement, and it seemed to give an account of that event as being a victory for the Confederate army. That is the battle where General Sheridan came up in his famous ride, from Winchester, twenty miles away.

Comrade Joseph Bub—The 5th Wisconsin were lying at Winchester.

Comrade Ellis—The 6th Army Corps was there. I took exception to the statement of Mr. Curtis, as published in the Chicago Record. The 5th Wisconsin as a part of that corps is much interested in the matter. I wrote to the Chicago Record and they sent the letter to Curtis, and Curtis wrote me an answer, stating that the incident was closed, and as a matter of history the Union army was defeated at that time. Now I do not understand that to be the case. I do not understand that General Wright was defeated. He was in command of the Union army at Cedar Creek, and the 6th Corps was in the reserve, and they had checked the advance of the enemy at that time, and when General Sheridan came up General Wright was driving the rebels and was wrestling from them what the friends of General Sheridan have declared to be a defeat of the Union army; and I think that the error which is so prevalent ought to be corrected.

Another error of history I know something about, is this: it has reference to the second battle of Petersburg, at the time of the attack on the rebel works when we moved out in front of Fort Fisher. After daylight came, when the Union troops, the 5th Wisconsin, and I think the 37th Massachusetts, which were together at the time, passed over the rebel works; on the left there was a fortification inside the rebel lines and on the right another fortification, two guns in one and one in the other, manned by artillerymen, and troops also were massed in them. The bulk of the 5th Wisconsin went over as far as the Weldon railroad. A portion of the 5th Wisconsin stayed there inside the rebel lines and attacked those fortifications, and first the fortification on the right was attacked. I was with the troops that attacked that fortification; and it was also attacked in front by some of the troops that were in that line at that time, and the fortification was reduced and captured, and then again we turned and passed down through that valley and up on the left, inside the rebel lines, and attacked the fortification on the left, and that was captured by a remnant of the 5th Wisconsin. Well, just after daylight when I started back towards the rear with a lot of rebel prisoners in my charge, I passed down from the rebel breastworks and came across the Jersey brigade. They had a skirmish line out in front of them in charge of a lieutenant, and were firing on the breastworks of the rebels at that time, and that was followed by the line of battle composed of the Jersey brigade which was supporting our line at that time. I had some hot words with that lieutenant, and they ceased firing and went into the breastworks; and it was published next day that those fortifications were captured by the Jersey brigade and that part of the breastworks were taken by the Jersey brigade, but those fortifications and breastworks were taken by the 5th Wisconsin, and I was one of the parties that took part in it, and I know that, as it has been transcribed in history, is an error. I saw it in the daily papers as they came out afterwards, and it was afterwards transcribed into history, and that is an error that ought to be corrected.

Comrade Butterfield—I stated last year in regard to Colonel Bull that we were not on very good terms, and I was on the general's staff and had occasion to be in front that morning, and as Colonel Bull had charge of the 5th Wisconsin skirmish



line, I had cause to see how he acted in the face of the enemy, and I happened to be right there in the rear of the 5th Wisconsin skirmish line that morning when they took these works; so I do not think the Jersey brigade should have any credit for taking the works. The 5th Wisconsin were in the works first.

General Allen—I wish simply to say to you that it affords me great pleasure to see so many of the old faces present here today. At some personal inconvenience I have come here, but my desire to see my old comrades has been so great as to overcome my physical disability. I should like to speak to you more fully, but owing to an affection of the throat I find it impossible to do so.

President Bean—The circular issued by the Secretary announced that there would be sessions of this society to-day and tomorrow, but it is thought best that we close the session with this day. There are no papers to be read, and the wisdom of attempting to have another session tomorrow is doubted. This evening Comrade Powrie will, as he has himself notified you, entertain us all in the adjoining room with a lecture illustrated by pictures thrown on the screen. If there is nothing further to be said, a motion to adjourn *sine die* is in order. I desire to express my very great pleasure, coupled with a little surprise, that so many have attended this meeting, and further to express the most ardent hope that we may all meet together again next year, and perhaps that many who are now absent may be present then.

Judge Anderson—Before we adjourn I would suggest that perhaps it might be well, and would assist the Secretary somewhat, to call on those present to announce any deaths among the comrades during the year. I desire to announce that about three weeks ago or so, my old comrade and tent-mate, Dr. Lewis La Count, passed over the river. He lived at Merrill, Wisconsin.

President—It is an excellent suggestion, and further than that, if the comrades have occasion to change their location, to move from one place to another, they would do well to advise the Secretary, as it would enable him to keep his records in better shape.

Comrade Powrie entertained the Association and their friends in the evening with a very interesting, lecture accompanied with stereopticon views of old familiar army scenes, and a unanimous vote of thanks was tendered to Comrade Powrie for the same.

Adjourned subject to call of the Executive Committee.

Geo. D. Engle.

Secretary.





## OUR HONORED DEAD.

(Since last Report.)

---

"On fame's eternal camping ground,  
Their silent tents are spread,  
And glory guards that solemn round,  
The bivouac of the dead."

---

FRANCIS ALDRIDGE, Co. "A", Waupaca, Wis.

ORLANDO CULVER, Co. "F", September 2, 1903, Waukesha, Wis.

SAMUEL L. DYER, Co. "I", Pueblo, Col.

RODERICK ELWOOD, Co. "K".

STEPHEN G. HERMAN, Co. "A", April 15, 1903, Lincoln, Neb.

EDWARD K. HOLTON, Co. "B", St. Louis, Mo.

LIEUTENANT H. S. KRIBBS, Co. "K".

LOUIS LA COUNT, Co. "A", Merrill, Wis.

EDWARD G. LINDERMAN, Co. "A", Milwaukee, Wis.

WILLARD LANSING, Co. "E", March 6, 1903, Neenah, Wis.

CAPTAIN GEORGE W. MADISON, Co. "B", April, 1903, Leavenworth,  
Kan.

MORRIS MULLINS, Co. "A", August 31, 1903, Quincy, Ill.

ANDREW McFADDEN, Co. "F", July 11, 1903, Oconto, Wis.

ALLEN PACKARD, Co. "K", Stevens Point, Wis.

W. W. WIGGINS, Co. "E", April 17, 1903, Janesville, Wis.

CAPTAIN W. S. GOODWIN, Co. "A", January, 1904, Yankton, S. D.

LIEUTENANT BENJAMIN SMITH, January 25, 1904, Milwaukee, Wis.



## THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TO ...ROSTER OF 1902...

---

### COMPANY "B".

G. M. Chamberlain.....Shelby Mich.

### COMPANY "E".

Leslie Anderson .....Windom, Minn.  
Thomas F. Buck.....Menomonie, Wis.  
E. B. Hirsh .....San Francisco, Cal.  
Ira B. Newkirk .....Worthington, Minn.

### COMPANY "G".

Sulvanus Brunshall.....246 East 30th Street, Los Angeles, Cal.  
Chas. D. Tracy .....National Soldiers' Home, Cal.  
A. J. Wood .....Berkley, Cal.

### COMPANY "H".

Benj. F. Condgon.....Worthington, Minn.  
Joseph G. Sweet .....Fresno, Cal.

### COMPANY "I".

Edward W. Flynn .....Sawtelle, Cal.

### COMPANY "K".

John Kehl .....Holister, Cal.

---

## CHANGES IN ADDRESSES SINCE LAST REPORT.

Willard H. Rickaby .....Northport, Wis.  
Lt. Ben Smith .....287 Oakland Avenue, Milwaukee, Wis.  
Silas J. Parker .....Aurora, Ill.  
Lt. H. H. Linnell .....Berkley, Cal.  
James De Clark.....85 Randolph Street, Chicago, Ill.  
James McDaniel.....315 Milwaukee St., Milwaukee, Wis.  
Henry Becker.....East Schadack, N. Y.  
Elliott Shadbols .....Grennell, Ia.

Comrades are requested to look over the names of the roster, and if the addresses of any comrades are known that do not appear in it, please send the names to the Secretary, giving addresses and company to which such members belonged.

GEO. B. ENGLE, JR.,  
Secretary.

NO POSTAGE  
NECESSARY  
IF MAILED  
IN THE  
UNITED STATES

F8344-783

5776H









